QL684.I3
M4
v. 6
no. 1
1997

Meadowlark

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 6, Number 1 *1997*

Illinois Ornithological Society

Publisher
Illinois Ornithological Society

Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor

Robert Montgomery, Vice-President

Michael Hogg, Treasurer

Board of Directors
Renee Baade
Judy K. De Neal
Philip Haebler
Michael Hogg
David B. Johnson
Jean Lesniak
Robert Montgomery
Eric Walters

Recording Secretary
Philip Haebler

Associate Editors
David B. Johnson
Peter Lowther
Christine Williamson

Art Editor
Denis Kania

Staff Photographers
Joe B. Milosevich, Dennis Oehmke

Staff Illustrators
David Athans, Karen Becker
Brian K. Willis

Pre-Press Production
Kathy Ade

Printing
CityWide Printing
DesPlaines, Illinois

Membership Secretary
Joan Palinscar

Editorial Advisory Board
Laurence C. Binford
Dale Birkenholz
H. David Bohlen
Kenneth J. Brock
Robert T. Chapel
Mary Hennen, Scott Hickman
L. Barrie Hunt
Vernon M. Kleen
Scott K. Robinson
W. Douglas Robinson
Robert Szafoni, David Willard

Letter from the editor

Time to celebrate!

Congratulate yourselves. Because of you, the members of the Illinois Ornithological Society, we are celebrating our fifth anniversary! Five years of *Meadowlark* and more to come!

I can't name everyone who has been instrumental in getting us this far, but I'll try to thank some of the key players and hope you will do the same when you see them. These are hard-working volunteers who help bring *Meadowlark* to you four times a year.

David Johnson and Al Stokie compile Christmas Bird Count reports. David is also the recording secretary of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee and has been an associate editor for *Meadowlark* since the first published issue.

Joe Milosevich and Dennis Oehmke send high-quality photos for every issue without fail. What a pleasure to find their work in my mailbox every few months!

Christine Williamson, Judy DeNeal, Peter Lowther, and William Moskoff have written marvelous, well-researched articles as associate editors. Denis Kania has guided our artists: Brian Willis, Karen Becker, Walter Marcisz, and Leslie DeCourcey. Their pen-and-ink covers and inside drawings are admired by so many of our members. Sue Friscia has penned some insightful Feeder Station columns. Bob Chapel, Myrna Deaton, Vernon Kleen, and Eric Walters compile the Field Notes. No one can fathom how much work they put into this massive undertaking.

The IOS Board has faithfully and generously supported *Meadowlark* through all its growing pains.

The late Richard Anderson, and now, Peter Petersen, have compiled the Spring Bird Counts, another huge project.

Laurie Binford has set the standards that have helped *Meadowlark* improve. He and the rest of our editorial advisory board read manuscripts and offer suggestions on how to maintain those standards.

It would take many more pages to name everyone who has contributed to *Meadowlark*. Writers, photographers, designers, reviewers, advertisers, supporters. Thank you all. Forgive me for not mentioning all of your names.

Now, we want to welcome more people into our fold. That's why we present a lead article in this anniversary issue on some of the birding groups in Illinois. Each group has its different and highly worthy goals. We offer them our support and encouragement.

IOS continues to pursue its own goal to be a scientifie data base for researchers as well as a way to reach out to all birders and enhanee their enjoyment and understanding of the avian world. Many of those who responded to the *Meadowlark* Survey said they want this, first and foremost, to be a journal about Illinois birds - and that they really enjoy the bird finding guides.

In this issue, we present some of the favorite birding spots of some of our members. We encourage you to send your own bird finding guides. A few pages on a favorite little-known spot would be a welcome addition to a future issue of *Meadowlark*. Help us celebrate by sharing your knowledge of birding in Illinois. And please stay with us for at least another five years.

Sheryl DeVore

MEADOWLARK

A Journal of Illinois Birds

Volume 6, Number 1 - 1997

Special Fifth Anniversary Issue

ISSN 1065-2043

Vice President's Message

This year, and this issue of the *Meadowlark* are celebrations of five years of growth and achievements! We have maintained a remarkable growth rate and publish one of the finest state birding journals. Our membership has grown every year reflecting your interests as well as the vision, drive, dedication, and just plain determination.

The founder and driving force behind IOS was Eric Walters. With the help of the Board of Directors, he has made a vision come true. For personal reasons, Eric has resigned as President but will continue to serve as a Board member. Thank you Eric and Board members!

IOS, however, would be nothing without you, its members. Your support and patience in helping see us through the first five years have been wonderful.

The real backbone of the organization and what holds our Society together is our publications - *Meadowlark* and the newsletter *Wings over the Prairie*. The success of these publications is due to many authors, artists, and photographers who shared with us their creative juices and talents by submitting their works for publications. A fine editorial board reviews the materials submitted for accuracy and relevance, and advises our very talented Editor-in-Chief Sheryl De Vore. It may not be widely known, but Sheryl is a professional journalist, award-winning environmental writer, and author in her own right. We are extremely fortunate to have her overseeing our publications! Assisting Sheryl with layout and graphic design is Kathy Ade. These two professionals produce our extremely attractive publication - thank you both! We are very lucky to have so many very talented, dedicated members who give of themselves so freely to see that we have one of the finest state publications in the nation - in my biased opinion.

There are many others who have assisted in our growth. Neither time nor space permits mentioning them by name, but they know who they are, and to them I say thank you.

Your Board of Directors has begun reviewing our programs to develop a detailed plan for the next five to ten years. Because we are an organization of volunteers we need your time and talents in working with us to keep IOS growing. We need you to step forward to help your Society.

Bob Montgomery

Articles

Changes in Species Designations of North American Birds: 2
Updating Your Field Guides and Life Lists
— Scott Hickman and Dale Birkenholz

Illinois Bird Clubs Provide for Varied Interests and Skill Levels 7
— Christine Williamson

Nesting and Brooding by King Rails in Upland Cool-season Grasses 12
— Ronald L. Westemeier, Scott A. Simpson, and Jeffery W. Walk

Ringed Turtle-Doves in Brookfield 17
—Nancy Bent

Departments

Bird Finding Guide 14
IOS members share secret birding areas near their homes

Feeder Station 19
—Lynne Carpenter

Photo Essay — Contest Winners! 20

Seasonal Highlights 22

Field Notes/Breeding Season 26
—Vernon M. Kleen

About Our Cover:

Cover Drawing of King Rail by Denis Kania, art editor. For an article on King Rail nesting in southern Illinois, see page 11.

Copyright© by the Illinois Ornithological Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of IOS and the chief editor, except brief passages of a paragraph or less in which attribution is made to the journal and author.

Changes in Species Designations of North American Birds

Updating Your Field Guides and Life Lists

By Scott Hickman and Dale Birkenholz

Avian taxonomists attempt to accurately classify birds into proper species, genera, families, and orders. Morphological (physical) characteristics, including similarities or differences in feathers, skeletal structures, musculature, syrinx (voice box), as well as in behavioral patterns and songs, and even external parasites, have traditionally been used as the bases for placing birds into various classifications. For example, if a North American bird has all four toes joined within a web (is totipalmate), a hooked bill, a partly feathered tarsus (elongated section of the ankle), and a long, deeply forked tail, it is in the family *Fregatidae*, or frigatebirds (Pettingill 1970).

This seems pretty straight-forward. Based on characteristics such as these, one would think that by now there should be virtually no changes in birds' species names. However, the development of technologies that allow more direct measurements of genetic similarities (e.g. starchgel electrophoresis of tissue proteins, Sibley and Ahlquist 1972; mitochondrial DNA analysis, Cicero and Johnson 1995; DNA-DNA hybridization, Sheldon 1987), and disagreements among specialists as to what even constitutes a species (for a review of biological vs. phylogenetic vs. evolutionary species concepts see Zink and McKitrick 1995), have caused taxonomists to reassign the species designations of many birds. These reassignments frequently result in the lumping together of what used to be thought of as separate species into one, or the splitting of what used to be thought of as one species into two or more.

When this photo was taken at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Cook Co. In June 1992, it was officially known as a Green-backed Heron. Now, due to recent changes, it is a Green Heron. Photo by Annalee Fjellberg.

Keeping up with these changes can be challenging, even for professional ornithologists. For birders, it can be frustrating, particularly when our life lists are shortened by the lumping together of species. Life lists took a beating in the 1970s when the trend was lumping (Welty 1982). However, the more recent trend has been list-friendly splitting.

The American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature is recognized by the scientific community as being responsible for determining the taxonomic status of North American birds. In 1983 this group published the sixth edition of The Check-list of North American Birds, an 877-page text listing the scientific classification, habitat, and distribution of every bird documented as occurring within Central America, North America, the adjacent islands, and Hawaii. This standard taxonomic reference has now been updated by six supplements, numbered 35-40 (supplements 1-34 pertained to the first five editions of the checklist).

The species names contained within the second edition of National Geographic Society's "Field Guide to the Birds of North America" and the third edition of Roger Tory Peterson's "A Field Guide to West-

ern Birds" were updated to reflect the taxonomic changes of the 6th edition checklist and its first supplement (#35). The current Peterson "A Field Guide to the Birds" (eastern birds, 4th edition) and Golden Press's "Birds of North America" are both slightly older than these guides, and contain slightly older species designations. They were updated to reflect most of the changes of the 6th edition of the checklist, but none of its supplements.

The immediately following section provides the changes of the first supplement to the 6th checklist (the 35th supplement). If you own the 4th edition of Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" (eastern birds), and/or Golden Press's field guide, you should begin with the next paragraph. If you own a 2nd edition of the National Geographic field guide, and/or the 3rd edition of Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds," you can skip the next section, and begin updating at the heading "National Geographic and Peterson Western Guide Changes Start Here".

Birders primarily interested in Illinois species need only read the changes prefaced by an asterisk, which indicates discussion of an Illinois species. Traveling birders, interested in knowing what's happening to the names of birds from the Aleutian Islands to Key West, will need to wade through all of the following changes.

Changes to Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" - Eastern Birds 4th Edition (1980) and Golden Press's "Birds of North America" (1983) Start Here.

Change Arctic Loon to Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). Arctic and Pacific loons had previously been thought to be different populations of the same species. However, research conducted primarily by the Russians indicates that they are separate species. The Arctic Loon is typically found in the Old World, while the Pacific Loon is found in the New World (American Ornithologists' Union -hereafter A.O.U.- 1985).

In the Peterson guide, label the diagram of the alternative head pattern of Western Grebe (head and neck sketch shown left of Western Grebe) as Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). Birds with the white of the face extending above the eye and a more yellow-orange bill were thought to be simply a form of the Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*). Now they have been determined to constitute a separate species, Clark's Grebe (A.O.U. 1985). Golden guide owners should insert Clark's Grebe above Western, along with its description given above. Clark's Grebe inhabits the same general region as the Western, but is less common in the northern and eastern sections of its range (Scott 1983).

Morus is now the genus of the Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus)* instead of *Sula*, since it is more distantly related to boobies of the genus *Sula* than was previously thought (A.O.U. 1989). The Peterson guide already reflects this change, but Golden Press's guide does not.

The following section contains changes for both eastern and western birds. Peterson eastern bird guide owners should incorporate changes pertaining to eastern species into their field guides. Golden guide owners should incorporate all changes into their books.

National Geographic and Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds" Changes Start Here (Golden guide and Peterson's eastern bird guide changes continued).

Change Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceous*) to Neotropic Cormorant (*P. brasilianus*). The English name was changed to avoid the implication that this species is olivaceously colored, and to conform with terminology used by ornithologists from the tropics (A.O.U. 1991).

*DNA-DNA hybridization studies and analysis of skeletal characteristics have indicated that the Great Egret is more closely related to birds of the Great Blue Heron's genus, *Ardea*, than was previously thought. Therefore, the scientific name of Great Egret is now *Ardea alba* instead of *Camerodius albus* (AOU 1995).

*Our Green-backed Heron (formerly *Butorides striatus*) is once again the Green Heron (*B. virescens*). This is a split of Green-backed Heron into Green and Striated Heron (*B. striatus*). Their ranges are from Panama north vs. from Panama south, respectively. They coexist in Panama without apparent interbreeding (A.O.U. 1993).

*The scientific name of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is now *Nyctanassa violacea* instead of *Nycticorax violaceous* (A.O.U. 1989). Most field guides already reflect this change.

Delete American from the common name of Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). An African species that had been called by that same name has been renamed, making the modifier "American" unnecessary (A.O.U. 1995).

The Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) is now White-tailed Kite (*E. leucurus*) owing to separation of Old World and New World forms (based on behav-

ioral, distributional, and other differences, A.O.U. 1993).

The scientific name of Crested Caracara (formerly *Polyborus plancus*) is now *Caracara plancus*. It has been agreed that the 180-year-old type specimen upon which the genus *Polyborus* was named is not identifiable. Therefore, this genus name has been replaced by the next one available for this species (A.O.U. 1993).

Change the common name of Greater Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) to European Golden-Plover. Changes described below in the name of the Lesser Golden-Plover (*P. dominicus*) make the descriptive term "greater" inappropriate (A.O.U. 1995).

*Lesser Golden-Plover (formerly *P. dominicus*) is now split into two species, the American Golden-Plover (*P. dominicus*) of North and South America, and the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*) which breeds in Alaskan tundra (at higher elevations and in sparser vegetation than the former) and winters on Pacific islands (A.O.U. 1993, 1995).

If you own Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds", change the spelling of the scientific name of the Green Sandpiper (an accidental stray to the Aleutians from Eurasia, Peterson 1990) from *Tringa ochrophus* to *T. ochropus*. This will update the spelling of its species designation in accordance with the amended spelling designated by the International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature (A.O.U. 1989).

Change the English name of Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficolis*) to Red-necked Stint. This change was made to standardize its common name with that used by the British Ornithologists' Union since this western Alaskan bird is primarily a Eurasian species (Auk 1995).

The English name of Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) should be shortened to Black-headed Gull. This colonizer of our northeast coast is primarily a European species so its name was changed to conform with that of the British Ornithologists' Union (Auk 1995).

*The common name of *Tyto alba* is now Barn Owl rather than Common Barn-Owl. Changes in the English names of other species make the use of the modifier "common" no longer necessary (Auk 1989). All four field guides already reflect this change. However, your life lists and local check-lists may not.

*Common Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) in the Peterson eastern guide needs to be split into Eastern Screech-Owl (*O. asio*) and Western Screech-Owl (*O. kennicottii*). Lack of hybridization and differences in behaviors and vocalizations constituted the bases for separating these species in the 6th edition of the check-list (A.O.U. 1983). The other field guides already contain this change.

If necessary in the guide you own, change the common name of Northern Hawk-Owl (*Surnia ulula*) to Northern Hawk Owl. The hyphen incorrectly connotes that this species is related to southeastern Eurasian and Australian Hawk-Owls of the genus *Ninox* (Auk 1989).

The scientific name of the Burrowing Owl, formerly *Athene cunicularia,* is now *Speotyto cunicularia*. Chromosomal studies have indicated that it should be placed in its own genus, *Speotyto,* rather than remain in the Old World genus *Athene* (A.O.U. 1991).

Change Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) to Pauraque (same scientific name). Changes in the English names of related species have made the delineation "common" unnecessary (Auk 1989).

*The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) should be divided into Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (same scientific name) of the eastern U.S. and the Red-naped Sapsucker (*S. nuchalis*) of the western U.S. Genetic differences and lack of interbreeding in areas where their ranges overlap were the reasons for separating these species (Auk 1983).

*If necessary, change Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) to Northern Flicker (same scientific name, A.O.U. 1983). This is an older change, but some field guides do not reflect it.

The Gilded Flicker (*C. chrysoides*) of large cacti (saguaro) in warm southwestern deserts is now a full species after being split from Northern Flicker. Interbreeding is extremely limited between these two forms because of genetic isolation and important differences in life history (Auk 1995).

The Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) is now split into Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) of the Pacific coast, and Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*) of the extended Rocky Mountain region. This separation is based on differences in tissue proteins, vocalizations, and occurrence together without interbreeding in northern California (Auk 1989).

The English name of the Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) should be changed to Sky Lark to conform with the British Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U. 1995). Their terminology takes precedence since this is a Eurasian species introduced to Vancouver Island. It is also a rare visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs.

Morphological, behavioral, and genetic differences indicate that the Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) be divided into three separate species. These three species are geographically distinguished as the Florida Scrub-Jay (*A. coerulescens*) in Florida, Island Scrub-Jay (*A. insularis*) on Santa Crux Island, California, and Western Scrub-Jay (*A. californica*) of the southwestern United States (Auk 1995).

The common name designations for the *Aphelocoma* Jays described above reflect their geographic locations. Presumably, the common name of Gray-breasted Jay (*A. ultramarina*) has been changed back to the previously used Mexican Jay (with no change in scientific name, A.O.U. 1995) to be consistent in using geographically descriptive names for the jays of this genus.

The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*) is now recognized as two species. One, still called the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, retains the same scientific name and is found from California to Texas. The other, the California Gnatcatcher (*P. californica*), ranges from Los Angeles County, California to southern Baja California. Co-occurrence with little or no interbreeding, as well as differences in morphology and vocalizations, form the bases for their separation (Auk 1989).

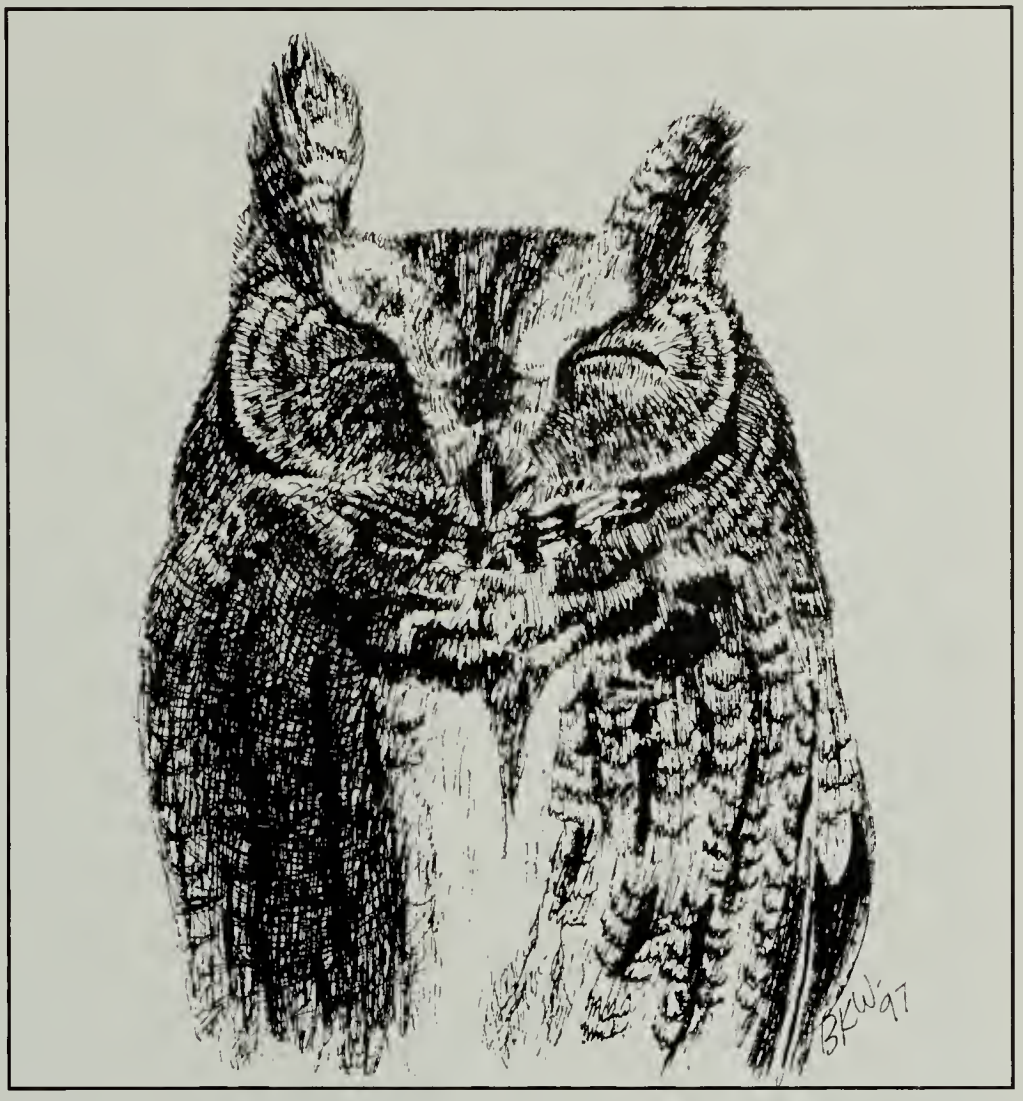
Only Peterson's western guide includes the Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica)*, an Asian bird listed as accidental in the Aleutians (Attu, A.O.U. 1987). Its scientific name should be changed in this guide from *M. latirostris* to *M. dauurica* in order to conform with current A.O.U. terminology (A.O.U. 1987). Additionally, those of you with Aleutian bird lists may have this species indicated as being the Gray-breasted Flycatcher, designated with either of the two scientific names shown above. Change its English name to Asian Brown Flycatcher to conform with international usage (A.O.U. 1989), and, if necessary, update its scientific name.

*Bicknell's race of the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) is now considered to be a separate species, Bicknell's Thrush (*C. bicknelli*). This bird of southeastern Canada and New England's mountains is pictured in the National Geographic field guide. Its habitat preferences, song, morphology, warmer back color, and migration patterns differ from those of the Gray-cheeked Thrush (Auk 1995). For a more complete description of this species, see Ouellet, 1993.

The common name of the Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus)* an Asian visitor to the Aleutians, should be changed to Eyebrowed Thrush (same scientific name) in accordance with Eurasian terminology (Auk 1989).

The species designation of the scientific name of Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*) is listed as *dorsale* in Golden Press's field guide. It should be changed to *crissale*. This modification allows the species name of this bird to conform with that intended when it received its original scientific description in 1858 (A.O.U. 1985).

Only Peterson's western guide and Golden Press's guide include the Brown Tree-Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*), a Eurasian species accidental in western Alaska (Robbins et al. 1983). Owners of these guides should change its common name to Tree Pipit to conform with the British Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U. 1995).



Eastern Screech-Owl drawing by Brian K. Willis.

The common name of Olive Tree-Pipit *(Anthus hodgsoni*) should be changed to Olive-backed Pipit with the scientific name remaining unchanged. This name change for this Asian visitor conforms with the British Ornithologists' Union (Auk 1995).

*Change Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta)* to American Pipit (*A. rubescens*). "Our" bird was formerly considered to be merely a race of the Holarctic *A. spinoletta*, but the two forms occur without interbreeding in southern Siberia (Auk 1989).

The Yellow-green Vireo of southern Texas is pictured as a race of the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus)* in both the Golden and National Geographic field guides. It is now once again recognized as a separate species, *V. flavoviridis*, retaining its same common name. This return

to full species status is based on recent biochemical studies and possible occurrence together without intergradation (Auk 1987).

*Differences in plumage, song, and degree of sexual dimorphism, as well as assortative mating, indicate that the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) is actually two species. Change your field guides to indicate that it exists as the Eastern Towhee (*P. erythrophthalmus*) in the eastern United States, and Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*) in the western United States. (Auk 1995).

Replace Brown Towhee (*P. fuscus*) with Canyon Towhee (*P. fuscus*) and California Towhee (*P. crissalis*). The Canyon Towhee is found from Arizona and New Mexico south, while the California Towhee is found in California. The splitting of Brown Towhee into two new species is based on differences in song, body measurements, and biochemistry (Auk 1989).

*The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) should be replaced by Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*) of the east coast from southern Maine to North Carolina, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*) of interior marshes of the northern states and Canada's east coast from Quebec to southern Maine. Peterson's eastern field guide and the National Geographic guide show these two species as races. They differ in morphology, vocalizations, and habitat preferences (Auk 1995).

The common names of Pallas' Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza pallasi)* and Common Reed-Bunting (*E. schoeniculus*) should be changed to Pallas' Bunting and Reed Bunting, respectively (Auk 1995). The Reed Bunting is a Eurasian species sometimes seen in the Aleutians, while Pallas' Bunting is an Asian species encountered in northwestern Alaska as a vagrant (Scott 1983).

*Split Northern Oriole (*Icterus glabula)* into Baltimore Oriole *(I. galbula*) of the eastern United States and Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) of the west. These two species were merged in 1964 on the basis of interbreeding in the Great Plains. However, recent studies show that their hybridization zone is stable, and a number of differences (plumages, physiology, nest placement, molts, body size, and migration patterns) indicate that gene flow between these two species is restricted (Auk 1995). So once again we have a Baltimore Oriole!

Similarly, the Rosy Finches are again separated into Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis)*, Black Rosy-Finch *(L. atrata*), and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*L. australis*), as they were before the 6th edition of the check-list (1983). It is now concluded that their merger at that time was based on insufficient evidence, since they are either geographically separated or show limited hybridization where they occur together (Auk 1993). The Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch is found in Alaska, the most western Canadian provinces, and northwestern U.S.; the Black Rosy-Finch in southwestern Montana, western Wyoming, central Idaho, and nearby sections of Nevada and Utah; and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch in the higher altitudes of southeastern Wyoming and Colorado through north central Mexico (Peterson 1990, Auk 1993).

Final Words

Continuing high-tech research into the genetics of birds virtually guarantees more revisions in the taxonomic classification of many species. This means that the traveling birder needs to keep a daily record of all birds seen, even of common species already on their life lists. If not, birders can find themselves trying to remember if they saw a Rufous-sided Towhee on their 1987 trip out west. If they did, they can add a lifer, Spotted Towhee. If they didn't, or can't remember and didn't keep a trip list of birds they already "had", no lifer! Many of us may not record anything as common as Solitary Vireo seen during a western U.S. birding trip. But if Johnson (1985) is correct that this bird is actually several species, we'll be wishing we had.

Literature Cited:

American Ornithologist's Union. 1983. The A.O.U. check-list of North American Birds, 6th edition. Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1985. Thirty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 102:680-686.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1987. Thirty-sixth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 104:591-595.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1989. Thirty-seventh supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 106:532-538.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1991. Thirty-eighth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 108:750-754.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1993. Thirty-ninth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 110:675-682.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1995. Fortieth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 112:819-830.

Cicero, C. and N.K. Johnson. 1995. Speciation in sapsuckers: III. mitochondrial-DNA sequence divergence at the cytochrome-B locus. Auk 112:547-563.

Johnson, N.K. 1985. Speciation in

vireos. I. macrogeographic patterns of allozymic variation in the Vireo solitarius complex in the contiguous United States. Condor 97:903-919.

Ouellet, H. 1993. Bicknell's Thrush: taxonomic status and distribution. Wilson Bulletin 105:545-572.

Pettingill, O.S. 1970. Ornithology in lab and field. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

Robbins, C.S., B. Brunn and H.S. Zim. 1983. A field guide to identification, birds of North America. Golden Press, N.Y.

Sheldon, F.H. 1987. Phylogeny of herons estimated from DNA-DNA hybridization data. Auk 104:97-108.

Peterson, R.T. and V.M. Peterson. 1980. A field guide to the birds (eastern region). Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Peterson, R.T. and V.M. Peterson. 1990. A field guide to western birds. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Scott, S. (Ed.). 1983. Field guide to birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

Sibley, C.J. and J.E. Ahlquist. 1972. A comparative study of the egg-white proteins of nonpasserine birds. Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University. Bulletin No. 32.

Welty, J.C. 1982. The life of birds. Saunders College Publishing, New York.

Zink, R.M. and M.C. McKitrick. 1995. The debate over species concepts and its implications for ornithology. 112:701-719.

Acknowledgments:

We thank Dave Willard of The Field Museum for his careful and productive editing of this paper. We also thank Sheryl DeVore for her editorial and technical assistance in the publication of our manuscript.

—Scott Hickman
College of Lake County
Grayslake, IL 60030

—Dale Birkenholz
805 Karin Drive
Normal, IL 61761

Illinois Bird Clubs Provide for Varied Interests and Skill Levels

By Christine Williamson

Birders of all calibers from the beginner to the fanatical lister tend to flock together to learn more about birds or brag about birds they have seen. A local bird club is very often the vehicle which helps turn an interested nature watcher who has just been awed by her first Scarlet Tanager into a dedicated, skilled, and knowledgeable bird watcher.

A few people I know are entirely solitary birders. They actually taught themselves to bird from books and lots of solitary field practice. And they still prefer to bird alone. But for most people, a bird club is nearly as important as their first set of binoculars. As both a training ground and a source of camaraderie, bird clubs continue to flourish across the state.

Bird clubs in Illinois share some common characteristics. Most meet monthly except in the summer and over the Christmas holidays, and provide members with programs about birds, bird watching, and bird identification. Some clubs rely on local hot shot birders as speakers; others bring in nationally known birding experts for their programs. For example, the Chicago Ornithological Society recently featured Jon Dunn, an expert on warblers. Many club members take slide photos of birds on their trips; so travelogues about birding trips are some of the most common programs. For instance, the North Shore Evanston Bird Club sponsors a slide night just for its members.

Most bird clubs offer at least local field trips. Some clubs organize much more elaborate and far-reaching trips to national and international hot spots. The Evanston North Shore Bird Club has featured trips to Whitefish Point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as well as its usual tour of the Skokie Lagoons in suburban Chicago each spring. The Illinois Ornithological Society has organized pelagic birding trips in North Carolina as well as sponsored outings to hotspots in the state that others may not have known about. One trip, for example, brought birders to a Clay-colored Sparrow nesting spot in the Rockford area. The illustrious leader was American Birding Association's President Dan Williams.

Many bird clubs have special beginner identification field trips and workshops. Almost all Illinois bird clubs conduct at least a Spring and Christmas bird count in their area. Quite a few clubs also use volunteers to perform summer breeding bird surveys and some fund more in-depth birding research on ecologically sensitive properties in their area.

Bird clubs reach their members with a monthly, quarterly, or annual newsletter filled with club news and events, conservation news, and bird identification articles. A few newsletters are packed with bird count

data; others are more folksy and anecdotal, filled with news about members. The Chicago Audubon Society publishes a series of informational pamphlets and special count information. Several clubs publish checklists of birds in their area. The Illinois Ornithological Society is excited about the prospect of publishing a revised state checklist, if funds can be found, and when the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee completes it.

Birding entered cyberspace some time ago, as the net surfing birders out there know very well. The Internet and various on-line computer network services provide a perfect medium for keeping in touch with bird sightings nationwide. You can subscribe to the National Birding Hotline Cooperative and order automatic delivery of the rare bird alerts from almost anywhere in the country. Both the Chicago and DuPage Rare Bird Alerts are part of the NBHC. The DuPage Bird Club maintains a home page on the World Wide Web with a profile of the club and upcoming events. The Chicago Ornithological Society, Illinois Ornithological Society, and the Evanston North Shore Bird Club are also exploring the possibility of setting up home pages on the World Wide Web.

Anxiety about attracting new blood, and specifically younger members, is a nearly universal trait among Illinois bird clubs. The state's Audubon chapters are committed to birding and environmental education for children, and sponsor several programs to reach out to kids in school and through camps. Many clubs are increasing outreach efforts into their communities, sending speakers out to talk about birds and birding, advertising in local community events calendars, and attracting as much notice as they can for the sport of bird watching, considered America's second most popular hobby.

Bob Chapel, an IOS member, watches birds during a recent Christmas Bird Count in central Illinois. Bird clubs statewide help organize bird counts in spring and winter, and thus contribute important state data for research. Photo by David B. Johnson.

What separates Illinois birding organizations is their degree of involvement in conservation issues. While birders as a group tend to be environmentally conscious, their clubs sometimes are not active in local or national conservation campaigns. Some clubs publish action alerts in their newsletters to give members a chance to sound off individually to the powers that be about a particular issue affecting bird conservation. But in a number of clubs, conservation action is left up to the individual, and the club itself does not involve itself in environmental issues.

The recreational bird clubs, such as the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society and the DuPage Bird Club, tend to rely on other more specialized conservation groups to take action on specific issues. As Peggy Camden, president of the DuPage Bird Club, said: "We are a pure birding club and not conservation-related. People come to our meetings and know what they will get is pure birding. Our members belong to other groups for conservation activities."

Alan Branhagen, president of the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society, said that while the club often donates cash to worthy environmental efforts, "there's so much going on in the conservation realm already that anything we do as a club seems kind of redundant. We want to focus on what we are here to do - educate birders about birds."

Some Illinois birding clubs started life in the early part of the century as nature appreciation societies, which may explain a little about the emphasis of the clubs on recreational activities, rather than environmental activism. The Evanston North Shore Bird Club started 77 years ago as an offshoot of the Evanston Garden Club and the North Central Illinois Ornithological Society was a division of the Rockford Nature Study Society formed early this century. The Chicago Ornithological Society was founded nearly 80 years ago by a group of professional ornithologists who in the early years approved only other area scientists as new members and didn't allow women into the group without a struggle.

One of the specialties of many bird clubs is taking birders on field trips. Here, David Johnson leads a group of IOS and Evanston North Shore Bird Club members on a "looney trip" in Lake County in early April.

Both Evanston North Shore and the Chicago Ornithological Society are becoming more active on conservation matters and are alerting members often about potential threats to bird habitats. While the importance of birding versus conservation activities is not always clear-cut among all club members, the need for at least some official conservation activism is recognized by at least a few of the recreational bird clubs. Generally, the activism efforts center on local habitat preservation and improvement of protection for birds.

The 12 Illinois chapters of the National Audubon Society and the 17 chapters of the Illinois Audubon Society are at the more extreme end of the activism spectrum. Both the older Illinois Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society were founded because of the urgent need to protect bird species from extinction in the late nineteenth century. Chapters of both organizations have continued a very strong tradition of conservation activism to this day, with a focus on bird preservation and habitat preservation. Hard core birders certainly belong to the many Audubon groups in the state, but conservation is definitely foremost on the agenda of all of the state chapters.

In fact, as Doris Westfall, a long-time member of the Vermilion County Audubon Society said: "We do so many other things, we don't have that much time for birding sometimes." Margaret Hollowell, past president of the National Audubon Council of Illinois said the conservation versus birdwatching question is "something we debate endlessly amongst ourselves. Are we bird watchers or are we conservationists? It's our perennial question. I think the active core of Audubon people are bird watchers. But there is also a very strong conservation camp. We have to think about this tension a lot when we decide what news to put into our newsletters, for example."

The Audubon chapters also have a strong habitat restoration ethic. Many groups and/or individual members are stewards of local natural areas. The Shawnee Audubon Society, part of Illinois Audubon, operates the War Bluff Sanctuary adjacent to the Shawnee National Forest, for example, and the statewide Illinois Audubon Society is currently involved in several appeals to purchase sensitive bird habitats. The National Audubon Council of Illinois has taken an active role in many campaigns involving habitat management in Illinois, with the most notable recent victory being the successful lawsuit against the National Forest Service because of its mismanagement of its own forest policy.

Space considerations prevent me from profiling individually the more than 30 bird clubs in Illinois. The most recent member directory of the American Birding Association includes information on local bird clubs by zip code region if you're

trying to find a club in your area. What follows are profiles of some of the interesting activities of a random selection of bird clubs in the state in rough geographic order. The other clubs in Illinois are undoubtedly also providing wonderful member birding activities!

The **North Central Illinois Ornithological Society,** based in Rockford, has about 80 members. Like many bird clubs, members span the spectrum from an older clique of retired birders to hard-core listers and beginning birders. Programs focus on bird identification of particular bird families, travel programs, and bird conservation. Field trips are generally run at least monthly and are regional, rather than long distance, usually venturing as far afield as the Chicago lakefront and Madison, Wisconsin. The group donates funds to local conservation efforts, but is primarily dedicated to watching the birds of the local environment and the northern Illinois region. Christmas and Spring Counts are popular club events.

The **Evanston North Shore Bird Club** is another independent birding club with 250 members who are mostly knowledgeable and dedicated birders, said Kris Richardson, the group's president. There is a hard core, fanatical listing element in the club, but many members are individuals and families who love birds and want to learn more about them. Evanston North Shore donates money to worthy land acquisition and conservation campaigns in support of bird conservation. The club is increasing its environmental awareness. Community outreach to attract new members will also be a priority, said Richardson. For example, an October meeting featuring live owls was widely advertised in Chicago's north shore communities to bring families with children into the club's sphere. Other programs are bird-related and include travel programs and many identification seminars. Field trips are run locally, regionally, and sometimes nationally.

The **Chicago Audubon Society** is the state's largest bird-related group with about 6,000 members in the Chicago metropolitan area. An affiliate of the National Audubon Society, Chicago Audubon supports research efforts such as spring, summer, and winter bird counts, a 15-year-old feeder watch study and publishes the data widely. Birding information is disseminated several ways. A telephone hotline rare bird alert for the metro area is very well used by area rarity chasers. *The Compass* is the society's monthly tabloid newsletter which combines environmental and birding news for area members. Educational efforts include scholarships to enable children and teachers to attend Audubon nature camps. Classroom birding education is provided through joint sponsorship of subscriptions to the monthly *Audubon Adventures*, a magazine for grade school children published by the National Audubon Society. A phone-in information hotline for questions about birds receives about 80 calls per month. An annual conference on birding and wildlife topics provides a forum for more intensive adult education.

Chicago Audubon is active locally and statewide on conservation issues and has supported land purchases in Guatemala to protect neotropic migrant wintering grounds. Another campaign collected and sent binoculars to Guatemala to support conservation efforts there.

The **Chicago Ornithological Society** now accepts amateur birders of all levels and provides a series of beginning birder field trips to give newcomers a thorough grounding in birding basics. The fanatical hard-core birding element is perhaps somewhat higher than in other organizations, which may explain why some members travel some distance from widespread suburban locations to attend general meetings at the Field Museum in Chicago. Programs range from well-known national experts to club member slide nights and travel-related slide programs. Frequent field trips check local hotspots during all seasons and regional trips have gone afield to Sault St. Marie, Whitefish Point, Duluth, Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, and the Platte River. Long-distance trips have included California, Texas, Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean. A bi-monthly newsletter keeps members informed about events and trips, and includes highlights of the rare and unusual birds seen in the Chicago area during the preceding two months. The society has funded projects revitalizing native and ornamental vegetation at lakefront migration hot spots.

The **DuPage Bird Club** celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1995 and has 175 active birders. The club emphasizes birding, and programs reinforce birdwatching education. Well-known speakers from around the country have been brought in for identification programs and other general programs, which are well-attended. Field trips are run to local and regional areas, as well as to more distant birding areas. A revamped telephone hotline format received national attention from the American Birding Association for its innovative practice of putting the boring directions to specific locations at the end of the sightings reports. Much information about birds seen at specific local hotspots is available on the club's World Wide Web home page. Christmas counts are a popular holiday event for members. President Peggy Camden says the club is "a great tool to make friends. There's an instant camaraderie in this club among member birders."

The **DuPage Audubon Society** is an affiliate of the National Audubon Society and is most active in

conservation activities. The group's efforts center on habitat protection in Du-Page County and conservation of birds, plants, and wildlife. The group is working to expand educational efforts in area schools. Long-time member Jill Venskus said while the group isn't very active in the birding realm, it is lobbying at a grass roots level on conservation issues affecting bird populations.

The **Thorn Creek Audubon Society** covers a long, narrow territory in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago. An affiliate of the National Audubon Society, Thorn Creek has over 800 members and good attendance at general meetings, which focus on bird topics. While there is a core of active, serious birders, many members are more feeder watchers than field birders, said President Marianne Hahn. Like many Audubon groups, Thorn Creek is very active on environmental issues and has been a critical campaigner in the fight to get the Joliet Arsenal site dedicated as a tall grass prairie national park. Conservation activities will likely focus in the near term on the re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act as well as proper management of the Joliet Arsenal and Lake Calumet. The group's educational efforts have been extra-ordinary; it co-sponsors subscriptions to *Audubon Adventures* for 130 classrooms in the area! Members are also active in community outreach and present birding programs to schools and other organizations.

The **Vermilion County Audubon Society** is another National Audubon affiliate which has been extremely involved in habitat conservation in its five county wide area. The group sponsors an Out-door School for fourth and fifth grade students, teaching environmental education, as well as supporting distribution of *Audubon Adventures* through bird seed sales. Children's camp scholarships and small grants for bird feeders for local schools are also provided. The group has set up a birding education room, the Audubon Room, at the Danville Historical Society, and maintains several bluebird box trails. Members are also active in prairie and marsh habitat restoration and management. The society's 200 members include a core of active birders who relay bird sighting information from friendly area farmers (including Barn and Snowy owls) amongst themselves. Field trips often go as far afield as Jasper-Pulaski State Park in Indiana to see migrating cranes, as well as local natural areas. Bird counts in the spring and fall are seasonal highlights for members.

The **Shawnee Audubon Society** is a chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society. With large portions of the Shawnee National Forest contained within its southern Illinois territory, the 50-member group has been very involved in forest management issues. The group dogs the steps of the National Forest Service and tries to make the service live up to its management responsibilities. Habitat protection is of vital importance to the group, which is also working in an alliance to ensure good management of a large tract of contiguous federal forest in western Kentucky, called Land Between the Lakes, which borders the Shawnee Forest. The group was given the War Bluff Sanctuary in Pope County by patrons Dick and Jean Graber and is acting as a steward for the property. War Bluff has become the group's focal point. Many club activities center around the sanctuary and its management. Members are fairly active birders who have just set up a War Bluff Christmas Count Circle. Members also do a Pope County Spring Count and helped U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researchers with Project Tanager in the Cache River area.

Unlike many groups, Shawnee Audubon has enough children who are members to warrant the possible formation of a junior division. What are they doing right to attract these six- to sixteen-year-olds? Lots of outdoor environmental education, including an Insect Appreciation Day! The Belleville High School Ecology Club also recently became a member of the group. Because the membership territory is so large, three meetings per year are held at the War Bluff Sanctuary and three near Carbondale to give more people the opportunity to attend.

Editor's Note:

We are sorry we could not include the names and activities of all the many interesting birding clubs in Illinois; however, we are offering a way for you to get the word out about your group. Our newsletter editor, Denis Bolm, will periodically publish pertinent information about your club's activities. Please send a double-spaced typed or computer-generated press release, with your name and daytime and evening phone numbers to Denis at 300 Inwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090-6712, Telephone: (847) 253-4705. He will include what he can depending on space restraints, timing, and other factors.

We also hope you will consider joining the ***Illinois Ornithological Society*** *if you haven't already, and spread the word to other Illinois birders who may not know about us yet. What are we all about? We are dedicated to publishing information about birds and birding in Illinois, including site guides; maintaining a state birding checklist; and offering field trips and an annual meeting to educate people about birds. We are also working on a strategic plan for the next five years in which we expect to more finely tune our goals and get involved in more publishing and other bird-related activities.*

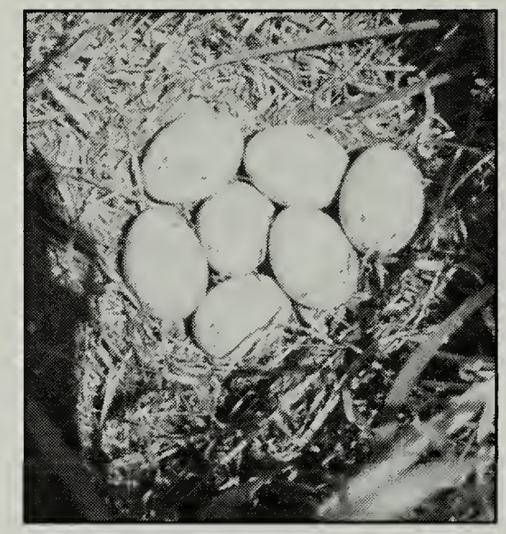
—Christine Williamson
4016 N. Clarendon
Chicago, IL

Nesting and Brooding by King Rails in Upland Cool-Season Grasses in a Southern Illinois Sanctuary

by Ronald Westemeier, Scott A. Simpson, and Jeffery W. Walk

King Rails (*Rallus elegans*) use a variety of habitats ranging from freshwater, brackish, and coastal saltwater marshes to shrub swamps and upland fields near marshes (Bent 1926, Meanly 1969, Bateman 1977, Ripley 1977). Typically, they nest on hummocks (rounded knolls, higher than surrounding marshy area) in portions of marshes with shallow (0-25cm) water. Water depths at foraging sites of King Rails are usually <10 cm and drying natural swales (low marshy areas) are important for brooding. Because of wetland losses and other factors, the species was included on the National Audubon Society's Blue List in 1976-1982 and list of Special Concern in 1986 (Tate 1986). In Illinois, the species was listed as threatened in 1994 (Herkert 1994). This paper describes characteristics and apparent fates of the two nests of King Rails found during a 29-year (1963-91) study of Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*) nests on scattered grassland sanctuaries in Jasper County, Illinois. Subsequent brood observations suggest that the species has become a regular breeder on Illinois sanctuaries.

The first of the two nests was discovered on 30 May 1990 by a team of nest searchers walking a 4-ha meadow dominated by redtop bentgrass (*Agrostis alba*) within a 94-ha sanctuary. An adult King Rail was flushed from five eggs at a distance of 6 m. The second nest was found the following day by a team of searchers while walking a 2-ha stand of smooth brome (*Bromus inermus*) within a 65-ha sanctuary. One adult flushed from seven eggs at a distance of 1 m; a second adult flushed about 2 m from the nest and the searchers. Because clutch size of King Rails is typically 10-12 eggs (Meanly 1969), we assumed adults at both nests were still in the laying stage.



King Rail nest and eggs in smooth brome (grass parted for photo) on the Donnelley Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary, Jasper Co., IL. 31 May 1990. Photo by Ron Westemeier.

We revisited both nests on 11 July 1990. Both were judged successful on the basis of: (1) small chips of egg shells present in and immediately outside both nest bowls, (2) the presence of one unhatched, nearly intact egg containing embryo remains (i.e., not depredated) in each nest, and (3) an egg shell with a typical pip line characteristic of hatching. Meanly (1969:65) reported shell fragments to be characteristic of "virtually all" successful nests and that adults may eat egg shells soon after hatching. One intact egg showed no evidence of fertility when opened. The 12 eggs observed upon discovery were light buff and spotted with brown. The three unhatched eggs from the two nests measured 41.8 (mm) x 29.6, 40.8 x 30.5, and 41.3 x 30.4.

We identified and measured plants within 30 cm of the rim of each nest. The nest in the redtop field was mostly concealed by redtop (65%) with lesser contributions by timothy (*Phleum pratense*)(15%), wild mustard (*Brassica campestris*)(15%), and brome grass (*Bromus commutatus*) (5%). The brome nest was 95% concealed by smooth brome and a small amount (5%) of slender rush (*Juncus tenuis*). Both fields had been high mowed by combine (for redtop seed) or rotary mower the previous summer or fall leaving a residual stubble height of 41 cm at both nests. New growth was slightly higher (43-46 cm) on the dates of discovery. Both clutches could be viewed from overhead through a slight interlaced canopy of grass leaves. Depths of grassy duff, comprising each nest bowl, measured 3-5 cm in the centers and 5-8 cm at the rims. Both nests were on upland prairie sites, but in essentially level fields that tended to be poorly drained when subjected to heavy rainfall. During May 1990, precipitation was 135% above a 30-year average with 25.2 cm recorded

for the east southeast district of Illinois (Illinois State Water Survey 1991). The heaviest rains (19.4 cm) occurred during 11-16 May, probably just before the two King Rail nests were initiated. The wet conditions combined with attractive grasslands may have induced nesting at these sites.

Sympatric bird nests with the King Rail nests included one Greater Prairie-Chicken, one Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), and one Eastern Meadowlark (*Sternella magna)* in the brome field. In the redtop field, we found seven Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) nests, four Eastern Meadowlark nests, and one Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) nest. All non-passerine nests were successful except for the Short-eared Owl clutch. All of these species may attest to the upland character of habitats chosen by the King Rails.

In 1994, King Rail observations included a brood of four downy chicks with an adult and a lone adult, on separate sanctuaries. The brood was observed on 28 June along a drive lane and in a field of smooth brome. A broad drainage dominated by reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) bordered one side of the brome field about 50 m from the drive lane. The lone adult bird was observed on two separate occasions in July moving between private land and a sanctuary in a drainage area, dominated by reed canary grass and tall fescue (*Fescue eleatior*).

In 1995, three broods were recorded on three sanctuaries. The first brood of five downy chicks and an adult was observed 22 June along a drive lane and then in a field of smooth brome. This location was about 150 m from where at least two adults were heard calling 30 May. The second brood was seen 18 July on a mud flat of a newly created wetland. An adult and one immature King Rail ran into winter wheat and annual weeds that bordered the wetland. Adults were seen or heard in these habitats from 30 May through 22 July. The third brood, consisting of an adult and two immatures, was seen 28 July along a drive lane with 10 cm-high grass, next to a tall fescue drainage area. An adult had been heard calling from this area in late May.

A lack of brood habitat is believed to be a major factor limiting King Rails on Illinois' prairie- chicken sanctuaries (T. Fink, pers. comm.). Establishment of wetlands, now underway on the sanctuaries, should maintain shallow open water, wetland vegetation, and mudflats to enhance breeding habitat for King Rails and other wetland species.

King Rail tracks in mud, Donnelley Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary, Jasper Co., IL. 31 May 1990. Photo by Ron Westemeier.

Acknowledgments:

We are grateful to numerous people who assisted with searches for nests, particularly the large commitment of biologists from the Division of Natural Heritage, the former Illinois Dept. of Conservation (IDOC - now IDNR) in 1990-91. We thank P. W. Brown, J. R. Herkert, S. K. Robinson, and C. Warwick for suggestions and editorial help on the manuscript. The project was funded by the IDOC, the Illinois Natural History Survey, and the University of Illinois, and conducted on lands owned by the IDOC and The Nature Conservancy.

Literature Cited:

Bateman, H. A. 1977. King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) in Management of migratory shore and upland game birds in North America (G. C. Sanderson, ed.) International Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Washington, D.C.

Bent, A. C. 1926. Life histories of North American marsh birds. U.S. National Museum, Bull. 135.

Herkert, J. R. 1994. Endangered and threatened species of Illinois: status and distribution, Volume 3 - 1994 changes to the Illinois list of endangered and threatened species. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

Illinois State Water Survey. 1991. Summary of 1990 Illinois weather. Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Springfield, IL.

Meanly, B. 1969. Natural history of the king rail. U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. N. Am. Fauna No. 67.

Ripley, S. D. 1977. Rails of the World. David R. Godine. Boston, MA.

Tate, J., Jr. 1986. The blue list for 1986. American Birds 40:227-236.

—Ronald L. Westemeier, Illinois Natural History Survey, Effingham, IL 62401

—Scott A. Simpson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Newton, IL 62448.

—Jeffery W. Walk, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820

Great Little-known Birding Hotspots in Illinois:

IOS members share secret birding areas near their homes

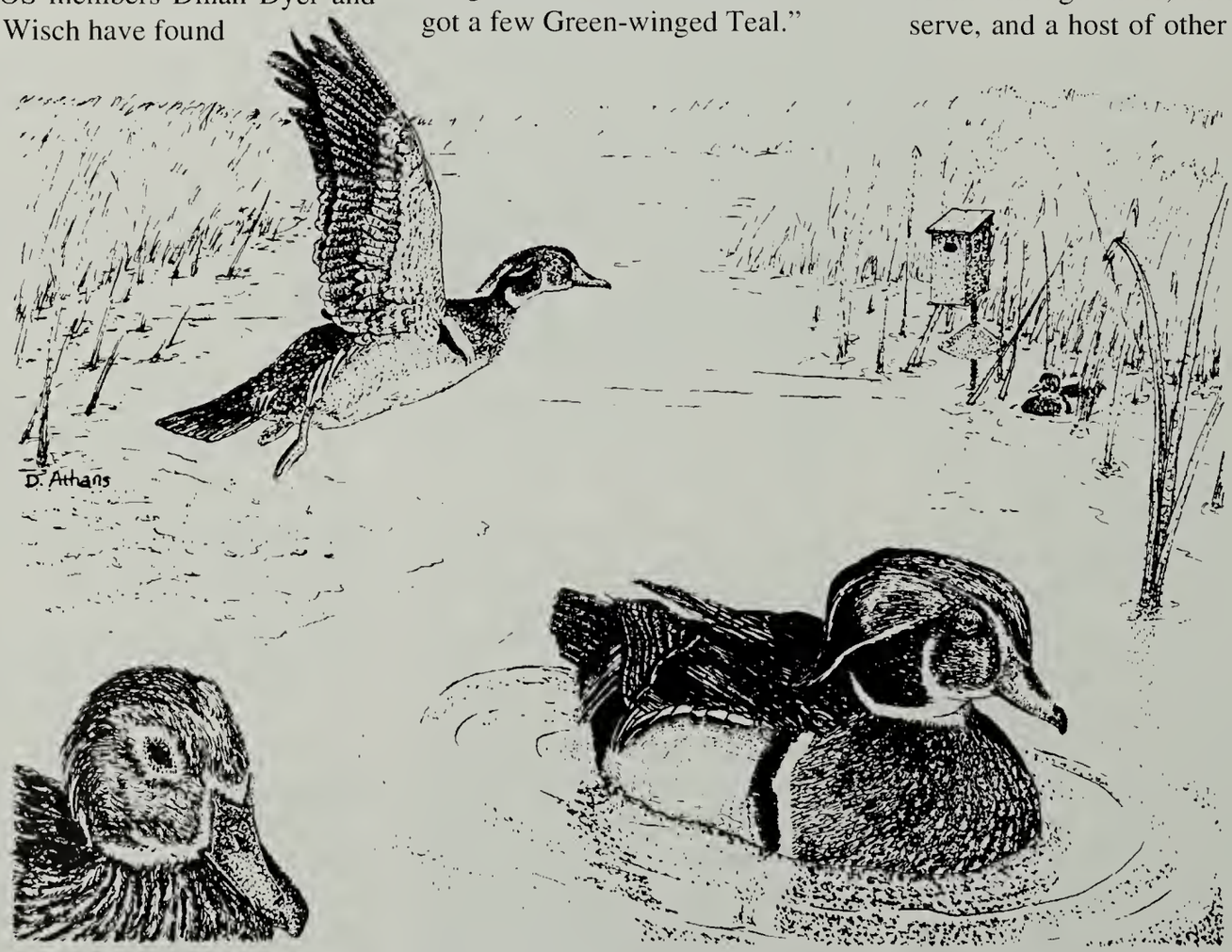
by Sheryl De Vore

Sometimes you discover a little-known birding spot near your home that yields some nice avian finds. It might not be on Roger Tory Peterson's list of the ten best birding spots in the nation. But it's interesting enough to keep you coming back, perhaps even take an out-of-town birding friend there to your secret little spot.

IOS members Dinah Dyer and Herb Wisch have found such a place near their home in Bannockburn, Illinois, in Lake County. Dinah Dyer was working out at the Bath and Tennis Club in Bannockburn off Waukegan Road just south of Route 22. "I'd drive in and notice a lot of ducks flying into a flooded field," said Dyer. "I went over there to look one day in the early spring of 1995 and I saw wigeons, Blue-winged Teal, and mallards. I also got a few Green-winged Teal."

Prairie Wolf Slough, Lake County

Naturally she had to keep on looking. She learned that this area was, in fact, targeted as a new Lake County Forest Preserve called Prairie Wolf Slough. Located on Route 22 just east of Route 43, Prairie Wolf Slough is managed by the Friends of the Chicago River, the forest preserve, and a host of other organiza-



Wood Duck drawing by David Athans. Wood Ducks nest at Ryder's Woods, a little known birding hotspot in McHenry County.

tions partnering to restore a wetlands and prairie there.

Dyer, a board member of the Friends of Chicago River, said during the spring of 1996, she discovered 15 Common Snipes one day. "Later on in the season, we saw lots of shorebirds," she said. "I kept going over there and looking usually between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. after work. We saw Semipalmated Plover, Dunlins, Lesser Yellowlegs, one woodcock, and lots of Killdeer."

"One cool day in April, I saw the trees filled with Yellow-rumped Warblers and Golden-crowned Kinglets," said Dyer. "It was wonderful. When the warbler wave came through, I saw 20 species in the bushes along the river. Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeer bred there the summer of 1996," said Dyer, who observed the Spottie chicks peeping, pumping their short tails, and following their mother.

The property, which includes a branch of a Skokie River, contains some wooded edges along with prairie and wetlands that are being restored by removing drainage tiles to change the water table. Last spring, volunteers and forest preserve staff also planted 50,000 prairie plants and added a walking path. "It will be interesting to see what the future brings now that they have started working on the area." said Dyer.

She is compiling a data base of the birds seen there. Look for her data and more information about this great, new little hotspot in a future issue of *Meadowlark*.

Horseshoe Lake, Alexander County

Compiling bird data about an area is what led Vernon Kleen, IOS member and Breeding Season Field Notes compiler for *Meadowlark*, to a back-road birding spot in southern Illinois. While running Breeding Bird Survey routes in June for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and participating in Christmas Bird Counts, Kleen found an area particularly rich with bird life.

Part of one Illinois BBS route passes through the southern portion of the Horseshoe Lake CBC circle, an area that provides outstanding birding year-round, said Kleen.

Those coveting Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, and Pileated Woodpecker for their birding lists can find these species in the area "any time of the year," said Kleen, avian ecologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

This birding hotspot is off of Illinois Rt. 3 one mile west of where Illinois Routes 3 and 127 meet in the Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area, Alexander County. Roadside habitats along this portion of the conservation area include a large deciduous bottomland forest, a wooded roadside creek, cypress and tupelo gum trees, a small dam, wooded park, buttonbush swamp, and a shallow floodplain lake. Kleen has discovered a wealth of avian species in these diverse habitats.

In winter, he found diving ducks, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, all seven species of woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Brown Thrasher, and Fox Sparrow in appropriate habitats.

In summer, he found Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mississippi Kite, Least Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Yellow-throated warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Orchard Oriole. "Of course, many other forest interior, edge, and wetland species are possible from these very interesting roadsides," said Kleen. "I've found from 50 to 100 species of birds in this area any day of the year."

Ryder's Woods, McHenry County

IOS board member Renee Baade discovered 65 species in one day at a little-known 23-acre natural area in McHenry County. "I moved to the Woodstock area the summer of 1992 and saw in the local paper that the McHenry County Audubon Society led monthly walks in a place called Ryder's Woods, year-round," said Baade.

For the next four years, Baade birded the preserve, owned by the City of Woodstock.

She learned that 130 species have been documented at the preserve, and that a group of locally active residents helped save the area from being developed.

Ryder's Woods is west of Highway 47 off Lake St. and Kimball Rd. It contains a 1.7-acre wooded pond, small meadow, low marshy area, and meandering paths.

"Some of our best days have been in spring," said Baade, who now leads bird walks there each Wednesday. In the spring of 1996, Baade and area birders recorded all five vireos and 27 species of warblers, including the first Hooded and Connecticut warblers.

"Summers have brought nesting discoveries of Cooper's Hawk and Green Heron, along with Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, and many regulars such as the Red-bellied and Hairy woodpeckers," said Baade. Also recorded in summer have been Indigo Bunting, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Wood Duck. A walk by the pond can be a treat when you hear the rattling call of a Belted Kingfisher.

In fall, Baade looks forward to a Broad-winged Hawk or Winter Wren, and in the winter of 1993, a group discovered evidence that a Pileated Woodpecker had been feeding there.

Ryder's Woods would not exist today if it weren't for the dedication of a small group of conservationists. In 1963, the City of Woodstock owned about one-third of what is now Ryder's Woods. Developers wanted to build on 6.5 adjoining acres which would have disturbed the area's integrity, and no doubt, the birds. The Friends of Ryder's Woods, formed from the Woodstock Garden Club, convinced city officials to nix the development plan.

"I am so amazed at what a few people with such determination accomplished back in the 1970s," said Baade. "They fought long and hard - even standing in front of bulldozers sent to clean out the area one day - to save this small parcel of land and the potential it held for so many to come and enjoy nature. Many have done so since and I can count myself among the fortunate to have had this wonderful woods to wander in."

Ryder's Woods "has been an easily accessible and enjoyable place to bird, with enough surprises, such as Summer Tanager in the spring of 1994 to keep me coming back," she said.

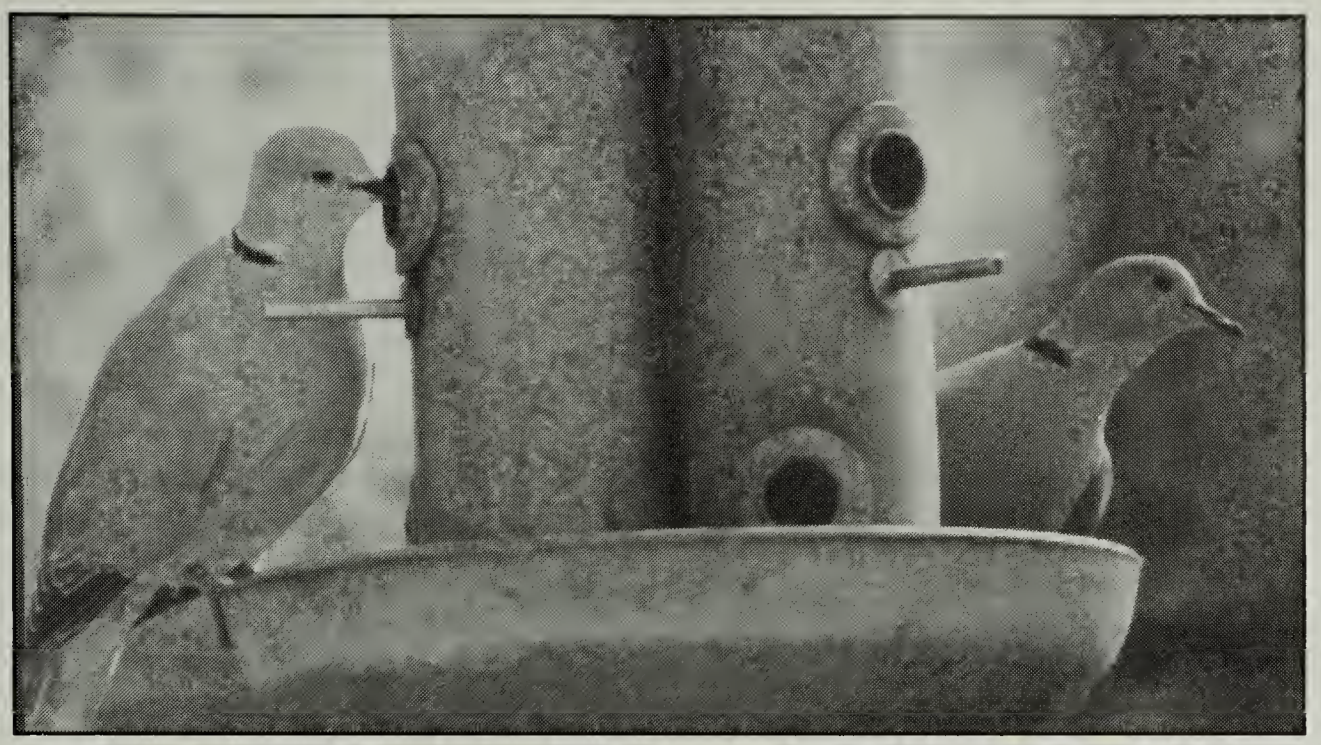
Editor's Note:

We'd love to hear about your favorite little birding spot close to home. If you want to write a short article on the subject, or even if you would like someone to interview you and write if for you, please contact Sheryl De Vore at 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060. In the meantime, get out your maps and check out these little-known, but worthwhile birding hotspots in Illinois.

TABLE 1 - A comparison of field guide descriptions of two wild *Streptopelia* species with the Ringed Turtle-Doves found in the Brookfield area

Characteristic	African Collared Dove *(Streptopelia roseogrisea)*	European Collared Dove *(S. decaocto) (S. "Risoria")*	Brookfield birds
Body size	slighter, markedly smaller 25 cm.	larger (31-33 cm.)	larger and bulkier than Mourning Doves (28-33 cm.)
Neck collar	broader, more noticeable white edges	narrower, less white edging	white edges visible to naked eye
Primaries	paler, lacking dark primaries, no dark wingtips	darker, open wing darkest on primaries, blackish wingtips	noticeably darker
Upper side of tail	darker than upperparts	uniform with rest of upperparts	uniform with upperparts
Lower half of belly	white lower belly	uniform pale grey upperparts	white
Undertail coverts	white undertail coverts	uniform pale grey upperparts, greyer undertail coverts	coverts white
"Song"	rolling, cooing notes, "cuu-currruuu", rolling kooek-krreroooooaw, usually accents first syllable	tri-syllabic, doo-dooh-do, kuk-kooooooo-kook, accents middle syllable	both songs have been heard
Call	quiet when not singing	catbird like mew call, nasal harsh kwarr	no calls have been heard

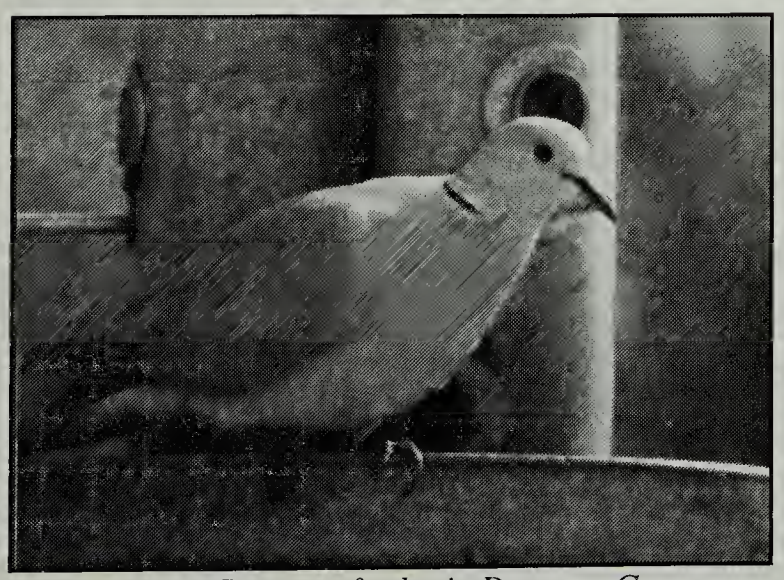
Sources: DeBenedictis 1994, Farrand (ed.) 1983, Heinzel et al. 1988, Hollom et al. 1988, Jonsson 1992, Peterson et al. 1993



Ringed Turtle-Doves in Brookfield

by Nancy Bent

In the early 1980s a new bird species appeared in the village of Brookfield (Cook County) and on the grounds of the Brookfield Zoo when the Ringed Turtle-Dove *(Streptopelia 'risoria')* arrived. Commonly kept as a cage bird, this species was observed both alone and in mixed flocks with Mourning Doves *(Zenaida macroura)* foraging on the ground and perching on garage roofs and power lines. It quickly learned where the local bird feeders were.



Ringed Turtle-Doves at feeder in Downers Grove, Cook County, 3 May 1992. Photos by Sharon Tharp.

Ringed Turtle-Doves, also known as ringdoves, domestic collared doves, Java doves (Goodwin 1983), or Barbary doves (Heinzel 1972, American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Peterson 1993), can range from slightly smaller than Mourning Doves to noticeably larger. Coloration is also variable and depends on the parent stock, as this species has been bred in fawn ("blonde"), albino, and pied forms, along with the wild coloration of pale rosy grey with darker earth brown back and wings (Urban et al. 1986). In Brookfield, birds of all types can be observed at a feeder, but a careful observer will note that after some time the smaller white and pied birds will disappear and all the birds will resemble the larger, bulkier wild type with rosy grey coloration. It is probable that the more exotically colored birds are more easily preyed upon and are therefore removed from the local population. Those that do survive will then be forced to pair with the resultingly more numerous wild type birds and will tend to produce chicks of the wild type, as wild coloration is dominant to the domestic colors.

The Ringed Turtle-Dove is usually considered to be the domestic form of the African Collared Dove *(Streptopelia roseogrisea)* (Long 1981, Sibley and Monroe 1990, De-

Benedictis 1994), hence the quotation marks around the Latin species name 'risoria.' It may also have been partially derived from the European Collared Dove *(Streptopelia decaocto)* (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). While the Brookfield birds undoubtedly arose from escaped or released domestic Ringed Turtle-Doves, it is unclear which of these two possible wild progenitors are their ancestors. A comparison of the field marks of the African and European Collared Doves with the birds observed in Brookfield yields conflicting results (Table 1, page 16). While more of the evidence points to an African origin for the Brookfield birds (neck collar, primaries, lower belly, undertail coverts, and lack of call) there is also some evidence for European origins (body, upper side of tail, size). Finally, the fact that both songs have been heard in this population over time adds to the confusion, and suggests that at least where the Brookfield birds are concerned both the African and European Collared doves have contributed genetically to the ancestors of the Ringed Turtle-Dove.

Regardless of the ultimate origin of the Ringed Turtle-Dove, it is now an entirely domestic bird and no natural populations are found anywhere (DeBenedictis 1994), though numerous naturalized populations have been established around the world from escaped or deliberately released birds. In the United States these populations have been found in California, Florida, and Alabama (Long 1981, Lever 1987). It should be noted that both Long and Lever mix accounts of Barbary doves (Ringed Turtle-Doves) in with their more general accounts of "Collared Doves" (which both identify as *Streptopelia decaocto*), further demonstrating the taxonomic uncertainty surrounding these species. In fact, the Ringed Turtle-Doves in Florida are apparently being replaced by European Collared Doves, and there is some evidence of hybridization at St. Petersburg (DeBenedictis 1994).

The continuing appearance of white and pied birds hints at the ongoing release of captive bred birds, though it should be noted that the Brookfield Zoo does not keep any *Streptopelia* species in its collection (and has not for at least 20 years) so the birds did not originate at the zoo. However, the Brookfield population appears to be at least partially self-sustaining. Nests have been observed for years at Brookfield Zoo, and juveniles have appeared at feeders in the village of Brookfield. Time will tell whether this bird is persistent enough to form a breeding and fully self-sustaining population in Illinois, and therefore become a "countable" species. Meanwhile, when on a visit to Brookfield Zoo or to the village of Brookfield, be sure to examine each "Mourning Dove" you see — you may actually be observing a Ringed Turtle-Dove.

Literature Cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds, sixth edition. Lawrence, KS: Allen Press, Inc.

DeBenedictis, Paul. 1994. Ringed Turtle-Doves versus Eurasian Collared-Doves. Birding 26(3): 199.

Farrand, John Jr. (editor). 1983. The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding, 2: Gulls to Dippers. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Goodwin, Derek. 1983. Pigeons and Doves of the World. Ithaca: Comstock, Cornell University Press.

Heinzel, Hermann, Richard Fitter and John Parslow. 1972. The Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East. London: William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd.

Hollom, P.A.D., R.F. Porter, S. Christensen and Ian Willis. 1988. Birds of the Middle East and North Africa: a Companion Guide. Vermillion, SD: Buteo Books.

Jonsson, Lars. 1992. Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Lever, Christopher. 1987. Natualized Birds of the World. Harlow, UK: Longman Scientific & Technical.

Long, John L. 1981. Introduced Birds of the World. New York: Universe Books.

Mackworth-Praed, C.W. and C.H.B. Grant. 1952. Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa, Volume 1. London: Longmans, Green and Co.

Peterson, Roger Tory, Guy Mountfort and P.A.D. Hollom. 1993. A Field Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe, fifth edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Sibley, Charles G. and Burt L. Monroe Jr. 1990. Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Urban, Emil K., C. Hilary Fry and Stuart Keith (editors). 1986. The Birds of Africa, Volume III: Parrots to Woodpeckers. London: Academic Press.

—Nancy Bent
Brookfield Zoo
8400 West 31st St.
Brookfield, IL 60513

Putting up a feeder leads to lifetime of birding

by Lynne Carpenter

It started 26 years ago when a neighbor dropped by and noticed our very first, lonely bird feeder on our deck. I lamented that all I ever got to come to the feeder was sparrows, whereupon she said, "I don't think that's a sparrow. Look, it's black and white, not brown." I agreed that, indeed, it might be a new variety and went to the library to check it out. I found a bird identification book that had colored pictures of all the North American birds, and by diligent research I discovered that the black and white sparrow was actually something called a Black-capped Chickadee.

With that revelation, I decided to make a list of all the birds I saw in my backyard. I used the best watercolor paper I could find and hung a long, narrow piece of it next to the kitchen window with a large heading at the top, "Birds We Have Seen: Summer of '70." That first summer I saw 13 species of birds. I thought I was terribly clever to have noticed them sneaking about. No matter that my new field guide said they were common in this area. In my backyard, they were furtive.

Imagine the amazement on the faces of the officials of the local bird club when I proudly announced the next winter I alone had seen 20 species of birds outside my kitchen window. I thought I was doing them a great favor by bringing such an observant new member into their ranks. Little did I know that these same officials had just helped identify 85 species of birds on one cold December day in one 15-mile diameter circle centered at the Chicago Botanic Garden for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Nor did I have the faintest idea that more than 300 kinds of birds have been seen in the Chicago area - or that I needed binoculars to see them.

I protested that my feeder was 10 feet from my house and that I could see what visited it very well. I couldn't believe there would be little birds in the tops of the trees in May and that I would need binoculars to see them, but I did borrow a pair from a friend. By kneeling at a second floor window, I identified nine species of warblers and two species of vireos in a few days. I bought a pair of binoculars for $24.95 and by the end of the summer had identified 50 species in my yard.

By joining the Evanston North Shore Bird Club, I soon became friends with expert birders willing to take me to good bird spots past my backyard and call me if a rare bird was in the area. Since then I've peered at prairies, scoped the marshes, slogged through sloughs, mucked about in mudflats, shivered in blinds, defied the dumps and settling ponds, canoed the rivers and lagoons, and sailed Lake Michigan in November - all in the quest of birds. I've put up with sandflies, mosquitoes, and ticks. Anyone can do it. You just put up a bird feeder and . . .

—Lynne Carpenter
847 Cherry St.
Winnetka, IL 60093

Feeder station drawing by Denis Kania.

Lynne Carpenter kept her backyard list until she moved in 1986; she had 95 species total for the yard. From her humble beginnings as a backyard bird feeder, she has gone on to be publicity chairman and president of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club, as well as Christmas Bird Count compiler, and a well-known bird leader in the Chicagoland area.

Everybody's flocking to join IOS and our celebration of five years!

FIRST PLACE: Eric Walters

Willet showers bring May flowers, Evanston's Lee Street Beach, Cook Co. 26 April 1996.

CELEBRATION!

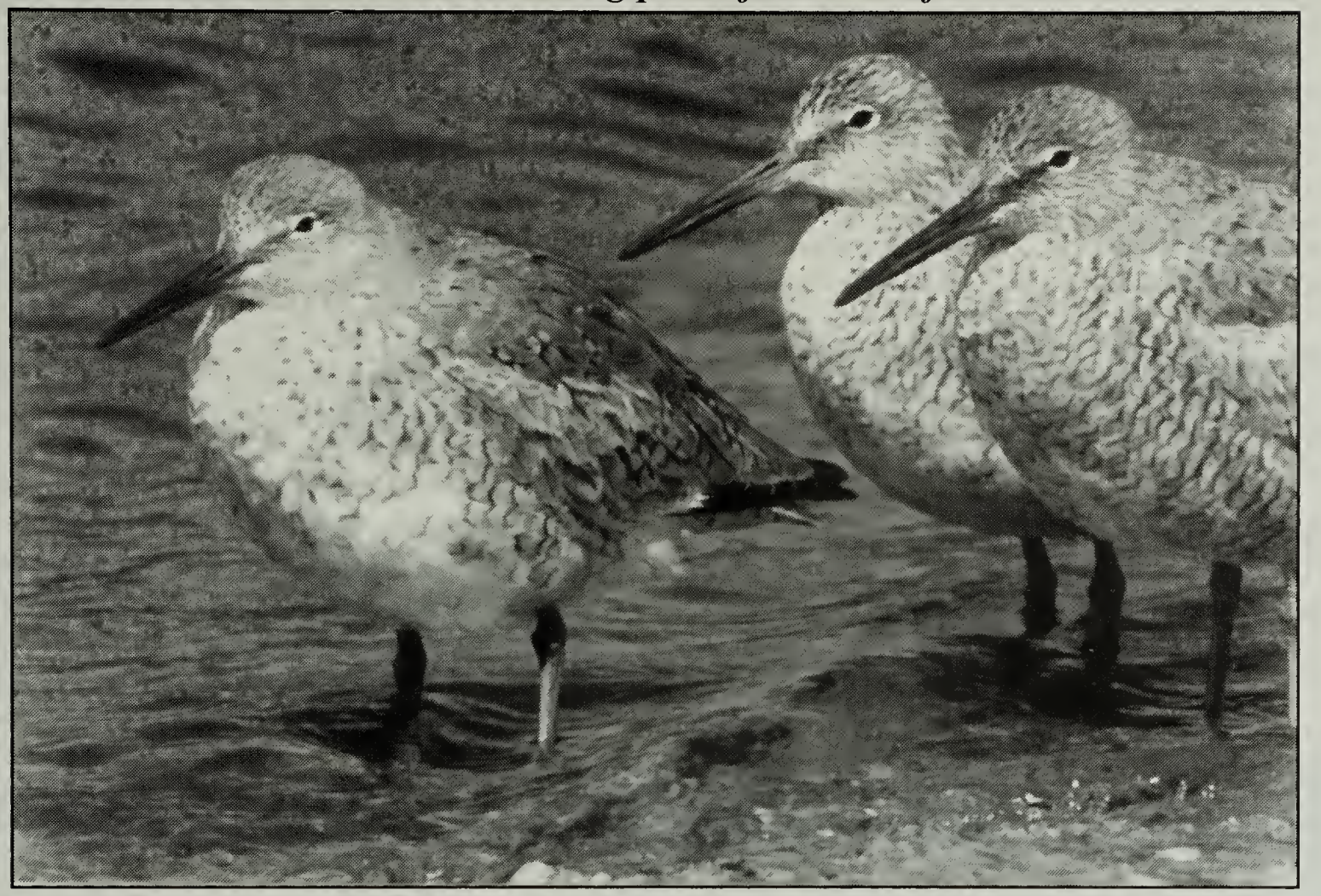
Happy Fifth Anniversary IOS! We have completed five volumes of Meadowlark, *and have a strong growing membership. Thanks to all our members for their loyal support. We celebrate by announcing the three winners in our anniversary photo contest. For information on the judges, see next page. Here's to many more years of great photos, articles, illustrations, and birding.*

A fledgling organization continues to grow.

SECOND PLACE: Joe B. Milosevich

Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper taken in Grundy Co. on 8 Sept. 1995 with a Canon A-E1/Tokina 400 mm, F 5.6 lens.

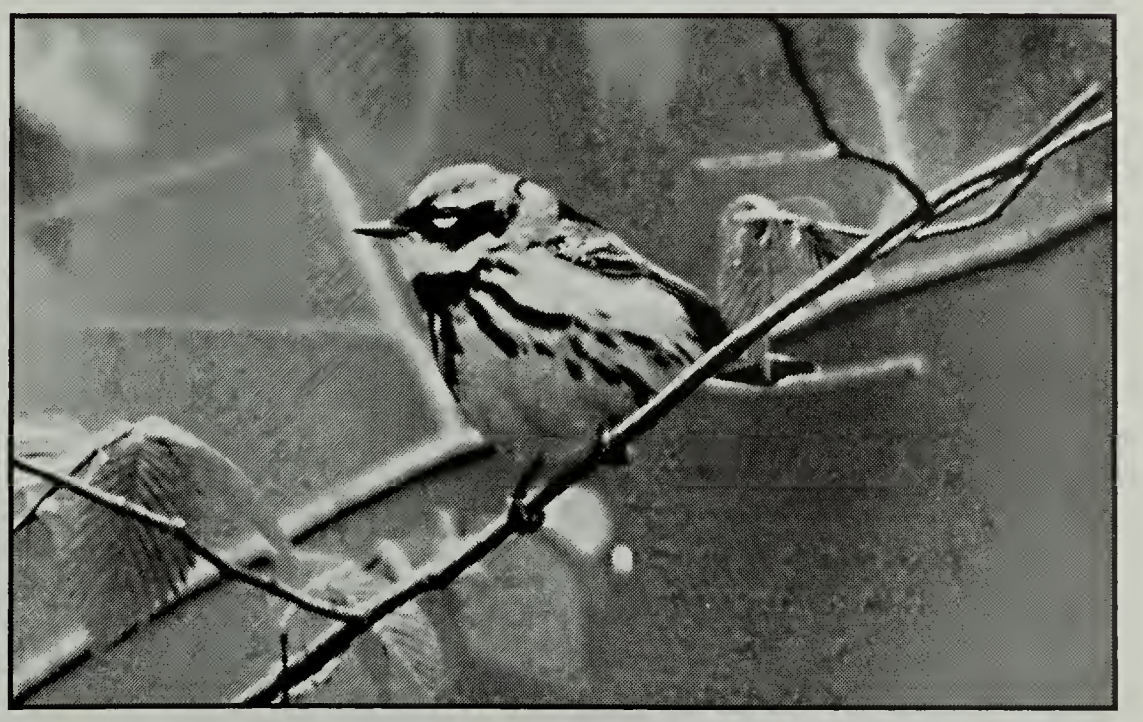
Birds of a feather flock together;
and Illinois birders celebrate being part of the IOS flock.



SECOND PLACE TIE: Dennis Oehmke
Willets taken May 1996 in Springfield, IL, Sangamon Co.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IOS!

Magnolia Warbler celebrates spring.



THIRD PLACE: Joe B. Milosevich
Magnolia Warbler, Pilcher Park, Will Co. 14 May 1996

About The Judges:
A team of award-winning photographers from Pioneer Press selected the winners. They had a difficult time deciding, but thought these photos best captured the spirit of celebration as well as demonstrated the photographers' skills. Thanks to everyone who entered. You're all winners! Start taking pictures for our next anniversary celebration!

First Nesting Record of Black-necked Stilt for Madison County

On 8 Aug. 1996, while examining a flooded pool that was rapidly receding along a levee south of Chain of Rocks Road near the Mississippi River in Madison County, H. David Bohlen noticed an adult Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) with three young. The birds occasionally hid behind emergent vegetation on an island copse where he assumed they nested. The adult often gave a loud alarm call when he got closer. Dorsally, the young appeared to be a dark muddy brown; ventrally they were white and a much fainter version of the adults; not as tall and with lighter pinkish colored legs. Bohlen did not observe the young fly, although the next day Keith McMullen observed one of the young birds take a short flight. Andy Sigler and John O'Brien may have been the last to observe this family group on 11 Aug. at this location.

By 17 Aug, this family group of stilts had flown to Sauget Marsh in St. Clair County nearly 13 miles from the Madison County location. Sigler and O'Brien observed these birds, which were most likely the same four individuals Bohlen found at the Chain of Rocks levee pool. The pool was totally dry by then, according to Sigler and O'Brien. On 20 Aug. Rick Seibert and I observed and photographed this family including the three young birds. The next day, Keith McMullen, Eric Walters, and Wes Serafin also observed the family. Vernon Kleen was the last to report observing these birds on 22 Aug.

The first confirmed nesting record of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois occurred on 11 June 1994 when Todd Find discovered a nest with four eggs in Jackson County (McKee and Fink 1995). Kevin Richmond also confirmed a nest with two eggs in Mason County (Kleen 1995) at Chatauqua NWR off the lake's mid-levees on 27 June 1994. Both these nests failed to produce young, the Jackson County site apparently was abandoned and the Chatauqua nest was flooded. However, in the summer of 1995, six young were observed at East Cape Girardeau in Alexander County (Kleen 1996). That record represents Illinois' first viable young. This Madison County record represents the state's second record of surviving young.

Barn Owl, Vermilion Co. 25 June 1995. Photo by James O. Smith.

Literature Cited:

McKee, C. and T. Fink. 1995. First confirmed nesting of Black-necked Stilt in Illinois. Meadowlark 4:6-7.

Kleen, V. 1996. The 1995 Breeding Season. Meadowlark 4:25-40.

Kleen, V. 1995. The 1994 Breeding Season. Meadowlark 4:25-40.

—David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Barn Owls Nest in Vermilion County in June 1995

On 23 June, 1995, Thelbert Falconer of Rossville told Doris Westfall of Danville that he had

flushed a Snowy Owl *(Nyctea scandiaca)* from a barn. Since Snowy Owls would probably not be present in Vermilion County during June, Westfall investigated on 24 June. What she found was a Barn Owl *(Tyto alba)* at roost in the darker portion of the hay loft of an old red barn. Falconer had seen it on the same perch earlier in the week.

Westfall called Bob Schifo who called me. We arranged to see the owl and obtain photographs for 6 p.m. on 25 June. Also in the party were my wife Eleanor, Bob's wife Susie, the farmer of the land, Gene Bell and Falconer.

When we arrived at the farmstead, we saw the Barn Owl perched on the metal rail running the length of the hayloft through the door. I took several photos of the owl with a 500 mm lens and a flash. Bell flushed the owl from the loft and more photos were taken by Bob as his wife took a video of the bird as it left the barn.

Westfall and I searched a second barn on the farm and found pellets, indicating the owl or owls had been living there for an extended period. Bell and I searched inside all the rest of the farm building for evidence of a nest, but found none.

On 30 July 1995, Bell reported to Westfall that two Barn Owls were present. Then at 8 p.m. on 20 Aug., the farm house tenant, Terry Trosper, called Falconer to report that their two dogs had caught and were mauling a fledgling Barn Owl. Trosper put the injured baby owl into a box. Falconer drove out to the farm, got the owl, and took it to his home and called Westfall, who in turn contacted Mark Pittman, a naturalist for the Vermilion County Conservation District. Pittman took the owl, but it died that night.

The following week, Trosper reported seeing two baby owls peering out of a small cavity in a silver maple tree.

On 31 Aug. 1995 Westfall and I visited the farm and found one adult Barn Owl roosting on the rail at the peak of the hayloft. It tolerated only a few photos before exiting the barn and was not seen again. On 3 Sept. Westfall, her husband, Bob, and Falconer checked on the owls. A mature owl flushed from one barn and flew into the second barn where it flushed out a pigeon. A short time later, the owl flew out of the barn into the darkness.

Steve Bailey of Danville checked on the owls once in late summer and found one roosting in a silver maple along the roadside. On 13 Sept. 1995 Marianne Hahn and I found two adults roosting at the peak of the hayloft in the red barn. Neither owl stayed long enough for photos or even for good observation even though we never entered the barn. They were becoming ever more skittish. We searched the farm and nearby groves of trees in vain for any sign of fledged young. I had brought a ladder from home and used it to climb into the silver maple tree to look into the cavity where the two young Barn Owls had been seen, then drove to the farm to check again on the owls, which were not found. Nearby are grain bins that had been filled during the early fall harvest. The activity and operating machinery probably created more disturbance than the owls could tolerate. The location of the farm will not be revealed. The owners are apparently not interested in wildlife and might raze the buildings if too many birders were to come to the farm.

—James O. Smith
R,R. 1. Box 327
Homer, IL 61849

Editor's Note: We again reiterate that confirming the nesting of a rare species, indeed, any bird species, in Illinois must be done carefully with the least amount of disturbance to the bird.

A Remarkable Killdeer Nesting at Chicago

Birders in Chicago's lakefront parks enjoy some of the most dramatic birding in interior North America during migration seasons, but learn to humble their expectations when it comes to breeding avifauna. I was thus duly surprised to record a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) nesting at Jackson Park on Chicago's south side which proved of significance not only to Illinois, but also to North America.

The nesting was remarkable for its date of occurrence. On 5 Aug 1996, 1 discovered three eggs being brooded by a Killdeer on the beach at 6400 South. Bohlen (1989) cited the latest Killdeer Illinois egg date as 27 June - nearly six weeks past. The latest egg date for all of North America supplied in Bent (1928) is 17 July. While Bent's work is dated, it was published after the heyday of egg-collecting, so much of the information on nesting limits therein remains valid.

The following morning I returned to the beach to find two barely hatched, helpless young in the nest. On 7 Aug. these young were active on the beach, while the third egg remained intact. By 8 Aug., the lone parent had completely abandoned the final egg, which I then collected and deposited at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History.

Karin Cassel and I monitored the young's development daily for the next few weeks. Their growth proceeded normally until one of the chicks was found weak

and sickly on 28 Aug. The feather tracts on its back appeared somewhat barren that day, while its sibling displayed remarkably abrupt advances toward juvenal plumage. The next morning, I found fresh dog-tracks where the weakened chick had been cowering the previous day, but no other signs of that individual.

The surviving young continued its rapid maturation, and sustained its first brief flight on 30 Aug. 1996.

Literature Cited:

Bent, A.C. 1928. Life histories of North American shorebirds, Part 1. Washington, D.C. Smithsonian.

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University. Bloomington, IL.

—Paul R. Clyne
5538 S. Blackstone Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Sandhill Cranes Nest in Winnebago County

On 8 May 1993, Jack Armstrong, Beth Goeppinger, my wife, Barbara, and I discovered the first confirmed nest of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) in Winnebago County during the Spring Bird Count. We were working our way through an oxbow marsh, formerly part of the Pecatonica River, on the north side of the river, about eight miles west of the Village of Rockton. The area is locally known as Moody Marsh.

Moody Marsh, one of few marshes left in Winnebago County, is owned by three separate parties. In 1996, the Natural Land Institute purchased the middle third of the marsh, plus 40 acres of adjoining cropland, from a private landowner who had it listed for sale as a building site. NLI intends to transfer it to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, which will place the marsh into its natural areas inventory to protect the nesting site. The landowner on the south has always generously allowed birders to access the marsh through his property to conduct the spring census and monitor cranes.

The oxbow was part of a much larger marsh and wet prairie complex in the original Pecatonica River floodplain. Most of that wetland has been drained for agriculture in the 150 years since the county was settled. The oxbow is the lowest part of the area, and likely cannot be drained further without major effort. The landowner on the north has recently excavated a pond at the edge of the marsh, and built a new house overlooking the pond.

Sandhill Cranes probably once nested in Winnebago County, but no old records confirm this. The species has nested in Rock County, Wisconsin, immediately across the state line, at sites as close as seven miles away. The subspecies that breeds in Wisconsin, of which the Illinois birds are a part, is *G.c. tabida*, or Greater Sandhill Crane, although historically, *G. c. canadensis*, the Little Brown Crane, occurred in Illinois as evidenced by bones found in Jackson County (Bohlen 1989). Bohlen reports that the species "probably bred fairly commonly in Illinois until about 1890." Before 1993, nesting had been confirmed only in Lake and McHenry Counties, with a probable nesting pair in Whiteside County in 1985 (Bohlen 1989).

We discovered the first Winnebago nest when I inadvertently flushed an adult bird. From approximately 30 feet away, I observed a platform of vegetation elevated approximately 12 to 18 inches above the knee-deep water, with a shallow depression in the center of the top of the vegetation. In the depression were two large light-brown eggs with darker brown spots and blotches. Not wanting to disturb the nest or attract predators, I withdrew immediately. As we left the site, we saw both adult birds. One of them returned to the nest while we were watching. We returned periodically to see if the pair successfully fledged young. Alan Branhagen reported seeing an immature bird with the adults in late August.

Within three weeks of this sighting, a second pair of birds at a nest was located by Vicki Nuzzo just west of the Sugar River, and immediately South of Yale Bridge Road, while she was doing a plant survey on wetland property owned by the Natural Land Institute. That property has since been transferred to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve, and is approximately seven miles northwest of the first site. Whether a pair successfully fledged any young that year is unknown. The remote site is difficult to access. Scott Robinson reported a pair in the same location in 1994 (Kleen 1994), and three birds were seen there, calling and circling, in May, 1996 during the Spring Bird Count.

Since 1993, Sandhill Cranes have continued to nest at the original site, usually within 100 meters of the first nest, if not in it. They have successfully fledged young each year. In 1996, they were observed with two almost completely grown young on 10 Aug., foraging in a soy bean field that immediately adjoins the marsh.

In 1994, Jeff Donaldson and Alan Branhagen discovered a third nest site in a large marsh along Telegraph Road, east of the town of Pecatonica. The cranes there fledged young that year, and each year since. Brad Grover discovered a pair of King Rails with young in June, 1995 at the same site (Kleen 1995). This marsh, locally known as Telegraph Marsh, is at the bottom of a

bowl formed by surrounding small hills. A small stream flows out to the northwest, toward the Pecatonica River. Part of the marsh, along the road, has been used as a horse pasture for many years, but the grazing seems to have had no appreciable effect on the wildlife.

Beginning in the spring of 1994, Alan Branhagen added Winnebago County to the Midwest Sandhill Crane Count conducted by the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI. This count is typically conducted in early to mid-April. Interestingly, the Winnebago County cranes are usually not trumpeting or otherwise vocalizing during the count period, and consequently are not reported on count day, although we know that they are there because we see and hear them in the nest areas before and after the count. We suspect these birds, at the south edge of the major range of birds in Wisconsin, had already laid eggs, are incubating them, and thus kept a low profile count weekend.

By 1995, at least five pairs of Sandhill Cranes were known to be nesting in Winnebago County. On Father's Day that year, a calling pair was observed flying over Rock Cut State Park, on the county's eastern edge, and circling to land in the undeveloped northeast section, but no nest was located. Three pairs, with two confirmed nests, described above, were known in 1996. Cranes have also been observed in Boone County, immediately east of Winnebago County, around the higher quality wetlands there, and Stephenson County, to the west, has reported cranes during the spring crane count.

Literature Cited:

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN.

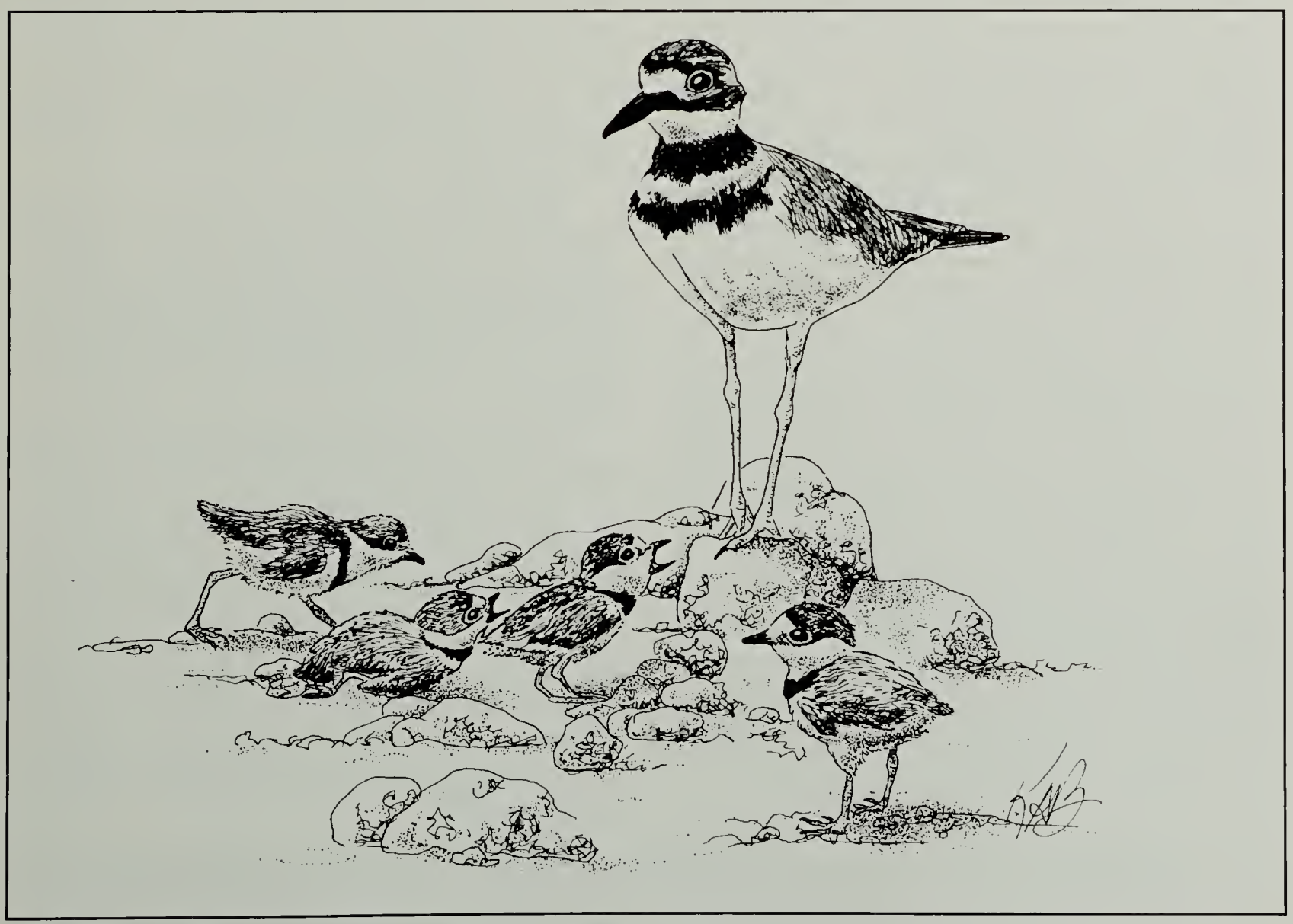
Harrison, Colin. 1978. A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT.

Kleen, V, M. 1996. The 1995 breeding season. Meadowlark 5: 31.

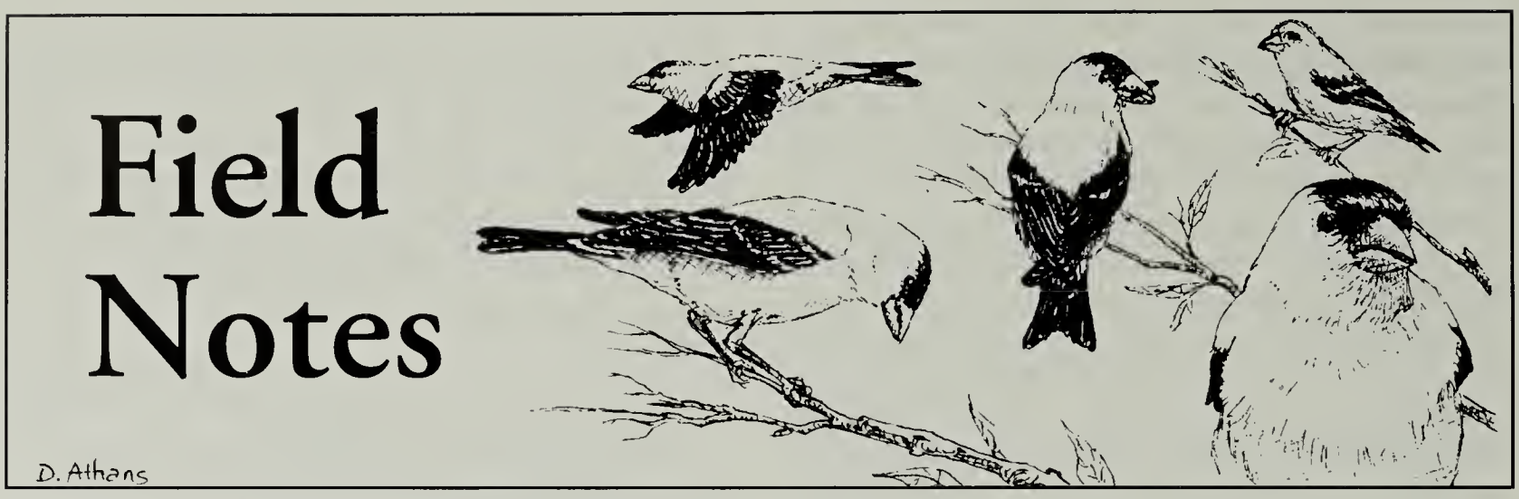
Kleen, V. M. 1995. The 1994 breeding season. Meadowlark 4: 31.

Kleen, V. M. 1994. The 1993 breeding season. Meadowlark 3: 31.

—Dan Williams
6055 Safford Road
Rockford, IL 61101



Killdeer drawing by Karen A. Becker.



Field Notes drawing by David Athans.

The 1996 Breeding Season Report

By Vernon M. Kleen

The 1996 breeding season, like 1995, was another good one for nesting herons and grassland species. It was also an excellent season for many wetland species including grebes, bitterns, rails, coots, and moorhens. It is possible that White-faced Ibises and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons may have nested with other herons in the East St. Louis area. Cormorants continued to become more widespread and the American White Pelican may be a new species added to our list of nesters in the not-too-distant future. Turkey Vultures were reported in larger numbers and more places than usual in northeastern Illinois counties.

The 1996 breeding season was a record-setting one for nesting Bald Eagles. Cooper's Hawk nests were reported more frequently this year helping to substantiate its announced removal from the state's endangered species list and Swainson's Hawks continued to 'hang-on' in northern Kane and southern McHenry counties. The Greater Prairie-chicken flocks of southeastern Illinois were enhanced once again with birds from Nebraska, and Sandhill Cranes continued to expand. Young Black-necked Stilts fledged from a Madison County site and a family of Western Kingbirds was found only a short distance farther down the Mississippi River. A summary report of Illinois' Eastern Bluebird Project should be available soon.

Lowden-Miller State Forest continued to be a 'hot-spot' for interesting warbler records.

As expected, there were numerous June and July occurrences of non-breeding birds. During the past two years these records were listed separately at the end of the main report under the heading of "Non-Breeding Summer Occurrences"; however, beginning with this report, these records, still identified as "Non-Breeding Summer Occurrences" (but abbreviated to NBSO), are incorporated into (and placed at the end of) the individual species accounts.

This was another excellent year for the Breeding Bird Survey Program; long-term and short-term population data have been collected for breeding Illinois species for 31 consecutive years. Of the 81 Illinois routes, 80 were adequately surveyed. Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who continue to faithfully monitor these routes every year.

Available weather information for this report is rather sketchy; however, June was definitely wet and windy.

As usual, this compilation is the result of field efforts from dozens of dedicated professionals and volunteers. Without their continued support we would have little record to pass on to future generations. Persons responsible for records in the following species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records. Considerable effort has been made to be sure that all information is correct and properly credited. All printed records can be substantiated by original source documents in the permanent record file.

Collectively, the observers and contributors for this report are: Cindy Alberico, Douglas Anderson, Alan Branhagen, David Bohlen, Dale Birkenholz (Dbi), Michael

Baum, Nancy Bent, Renee Baade (RBa), Richard Bjorklund (Rbj), Steve Bailey, Steve Byers (SBy), Elizabeth Chato, Karin Cassel, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Bob Danley, Jeff Donaldson, Larry David, Sheryl De Vore, Tim Dever, Bob Edgin, Julie El-Zanati (Jez), Josh Engel, Terry Esker, Carolyn Fields, Darlene Fiske, Matt Fraker, Christopher Greene, Ann Haverstock, Barrie Hunt, Marianne Hahn, David Irons, David Johnson, Jim Heim (Jhe), Scott Hickman, Erik Kershner, Glen Kruse, Vernon Kleen, Bob Lindsay, Sue Lauzon, Cynthia McKee, David Miller, Joe Milosevich, John McKee (Jmc), John McDaniel (JoM), Keith McMullen, Walter Marcisz, Charles Paine, Jack Pomatto, John Purcell (Jpu), Mark Phipps, Dave Robson, Kevin Richmond, Michael Retter, Roger Reason, Al Stokie, Brad Semel, Cody Smout, Darrell Shambaugh, Eric Smith, Richard Sandburg, Scott Simp son, Wes Serafin, Craig Thayer, Dan Williams, Eric Walters, Laraine Wright. Many thanks to Eric Walters for putting this report in the proper format required for publication in *Meadowlark.*

As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee has designed a new documentation form (available upon request) that should help all observers with the documentation process.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

Carl.L = Carlyle L (Clinton Co)
C'dale = Carbondale (Jackson Co)
Chi = Chicago's lakefront—excluding JP & LCal (Cook Co)
Clin.L = Clinton L (De Witt Co)
COLSP = Chain O' Lakes S.P. (Lake Co)
CONWR = Crab Orchard N.W.R. (Williamson Co)
DPCA = Des Plaines C.A. (Will Co)
ESTL = E. St. Louis (St Clair Co)
Fermi = Fermilab at Batavia (Du Page Co)
FGP = Forest Glen Preserve (Vermilion Co)
GLPSP = Goose L Prairie S.P. (Grundy Co)
HL = Horseshoe L (Madison Co)
HLCA = Horseshoe L C.A. (Alexander Co)
IBSP = Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Co)
JP = Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)
KCP = Kennekuk Cove Park (Vermilion Co)
LCal = Lake Calumet (Cook Co)
LChau = Lake Chautauqua N.W.R. (Mason Co)
LCNP = La Salle Co Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co)
LMSF = Lowden-Miller S. F. (Ogle Co)
LRen = L Renwick (Will Co)
LRSHNC = Little Red School House N.C. (Cook Co)
LShel = L Shelbyville (Shelby Co)
MFWA = Middlefork F.W.A. (Vermilion Co)
MM = McKee Marsh (Du Page Co)
MS = McGinnis Slough (Cook Co)
PCS = Prairie-Chicken Sanctuaries (Jasper Co)
Rend L = Rend L (Franklin Co)
RLCA = Rice L C. A. (Fulton Co)
Sang.L = Sangchris L S.P. (Sangamon Co)
Spfld = Springfield (Sangamon Co)
SLCA = Spring L C.A. (Tazewell Co)
SRSF = Sand Ridge S.F. (Mason Co)
SRSP = Starved Rock S.P. (La Salle Co)
UCCA = Union County C.A. (Union Co)

ad. = adult
C.A. = Conservation Area
subad. = subadult
F.P. = Forest Preserve
imm. = immature
F.W.A. = Fish & Wildlife Area
yg. = young
L = Lake
pr. = pair
N.C. = Nature Center
* = documented record
N.P. = Nature Preserve
** = specimen record
N.W.R. = Nat'l Wildl Refuge
resp. = respectively
S.F. = State Forest
m.ob. = many observers
S.P. = State Park
Co(s) = County(ies)
NBS = Non-Breeding Summer Occurrences
MC = Maximum Count(s)

Additional Cook County locations referenced in this report include:

Baker's L, Bartel Grasslands, Calumet Park, Cherry Hill F.P., Crabtree N.C., Deer Grove F.P., Egger's Woods, John J. Duffy F.P., McClaughry Springs F.P., Palos F.P., Powderhorn L F.P., Saganashkee Slough, Skokie Lagoons F.P., Swallow Cliff F.P., Zander Woods F.P.

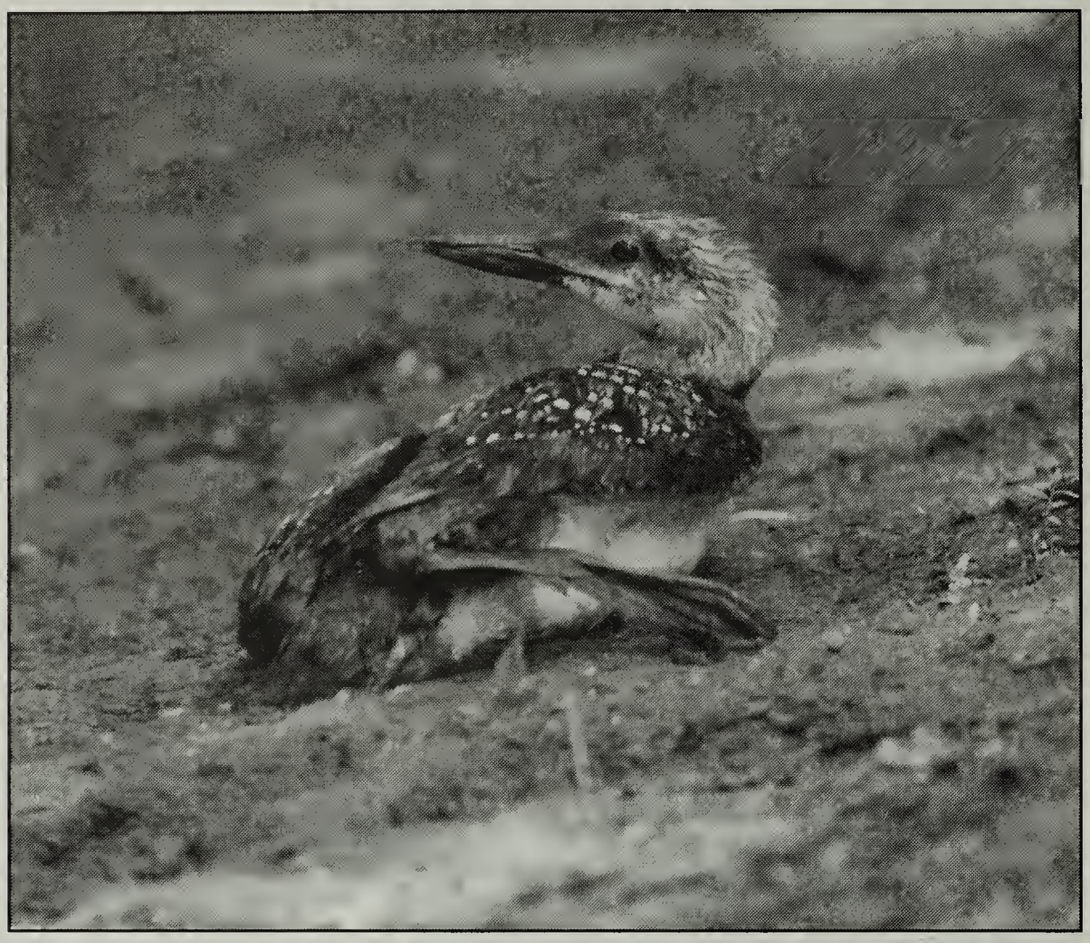
A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds. Dates, counts, or sites underlined and bolded represent very early/late dates or counts unprecedented or extremely significant for the state or that region.

1996 Breeding Season Report

Common Loon
NBSO: Sang.L, 1 July (DB).

Pied-billed Grebe
Nests: Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (2), May/July (CP); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (3), May/July (CP); Cuba Marsh F.P. (Lake Co) (8), May/July (CP); Redwing Slough C.A. (Lake Co), May/July (CP); KCP, May (DI). Broods: LCal (2—4 & 5 yg.), 20 June (WM); GLPSP (2 ad., 6 yg.), 14 July (AS); e. Lawrence County (2—1 & 3 yg.), 16 July (BE); s.w. Jackson County (2 yg. from 5 nesting attempts), June/July (BD). MC: 20 (including yg.), s.w. Jackson County, 1 Aug. (KM); 10, HL (Eagle Park), 15 June (KM). Others: McHenry Dam, 11 July (SD); Deer Grove F.P. (2-3 ad, but no yg.), 24 May-15 June (CF); JP, 4 July (KC fide PC); Heyworth (McLean Co), 10 June (MF); Spfld, 8 June (DB); Arcola, 20 July (EC); Lawrenceville (ad.), thru 24 June (TE); n.w. Union County (3), 10 June (VK).

American White Pelican
NBSO: Nauvoo (Hancock Co) (ad.), 5 June (VK).



Common Loon, caught below dam at Lake Sangchris, Sangamon Co. 29 June 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Double-crested Cormorant
Colonies (nests present in 9 locations): LRen (242 nests), May/June (DR); Carl.L (120 nests), 31 May (VK); Baker's L (47 nests), 2 July (SBy); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (41 nests), 7 July (RBj); Riverdale (29 active nests), 2 June (but all nests empty and fledging unknown on 4 July) (WM); Rend L (21 nests), June (TE); Indian Creek (Lake Co) (2 nest), summer (BS); Crabtree N.C. (1 nest), 11 June (BS); Fox River F.P. (Lake Co) (1 nest), summer (BS). MC: 1037, Riverdale, 2 June (WM); 150, s.w. Jackson County, 1 Aug. (KM). Others: JP, 17 June (KC) and (1-3), 9-31 July (PC, KC); Denny Road Marsh (Kane Co) (2), 3 July (DS); Spfld, 3 June (DB); Buckhart (Sangamon Co), 24 June (DB); HL (8), 27 June (KM); HLCA (4), 12 June (VK); n.w. Union County (subad.), 10 June (VK); Thebes (Alexander Co) (2 subad.), 24 July (VK et al).

AMERICAN BITTERN
Nest: PCS (4 eggs), 1 July (SS) apparently the latest egg date on record for the state. Others: Deer Grove F.P., 22 June (CF); GLPSP (ad.), 29 June & 14 July (AS & EW); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co), 7 June (KR); ESTL, 4 July (RC); Lawrenceville (ad.), thru 24 June (TE).

Least Bittern
Nests: Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (7), May/July (CP); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (8), May/July (CP); Cuba Marsh F.P. (Lake Co) (16), May/July (CP); Redwing Slough C.A. (Lake Co) (6), May/July (CP); Lockport, 28 June (JM); KCP (2—both unsuccessful), 9 June (DI). Nesting: Lawrenceville (2 pr.), June/July and (1 fledgling), 25 July (TE). Others: Wadsworth Wetlands, 16 June & 28 July & 3 Aug. (AS, SH, AS respectively); near Palos (calling), 10-23 June (WS, CT); Oakhurst Marsh (Du Page Co), 22 June (JP); GLPSP, 2 June (CA); Clin.L, 1 July (RC); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (2), 7 June (KR); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (6), 6 June (KR, RS); Arcola (Douglas Co), 13 June-4 July (RC); Yale (Jasper Co) (1-2), 28-29 May (SS); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (2 ad.), 29 July (SS); O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (ad.), 3 June (*TD); s.w. Jackson County (2 ad.), 29 June (BD).

Great Blue Heron
Colonies: 57 colonies with approximately 10124+ nests reported this year. Major colonies (with # of nests) along the Mississippi River in Illinois: East Dubuque (800), Andalusia (300), Blanchard Island (250), Bogus Island (200), Lomax (150), Eagle Island (150), Armstrong Island (200), Clarksville Island (120), Red's Landing (700+), Hat Island (500), Island 525 (600) and Beagles Island (500); major colonies along the Illinois River: Depue (600), Marshall County (150), Worley Lake (449), Clear Lake (327), Matanza (500); major colonies at Corps of Engineers Lakes: LShel (115); major colonies in n.e. Illinois: Fox River F.P. (85), Baker's Lake (68); Bartlett (270), LRen (182); Goose L (121); other major colonies: Little Muddy R (Jackson Co) (75); Little Black Slough (900); s. Cache River (450). New site: Kemper L (Lake Co) (3). Thanks especially to Rbj,SB,TE,WM, and BS for providing ground counts.

Great Egret
Colonies: 25 colonies totalling more than 2150 nests reported this year. Major colonies (with # of nests) along the Mississippi River in Illinois: East Dubuque (40); Andalusia (25), Blanchard Island (25), Lomax (30), Gilbert Island (30), Clarksville Island (30), Red's Landing (200), Island 525 (400), Beagles Island (50); major colonies along the Illinois River: Depue (20), Worley L (154), Clear L (104); other major colonies: Reevesville (50),

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, near nest site, North Chicago, Lake Co. 27 July 1996. Photo by Eric Walters.

Little Black Slough (100), s. Cache River (350), Baker's L (70), LRen (235), LCal (28). Thanks especially to RBj,SB,TE,DR & WM for providing ground counts. MC (away from colonies): 160 (ad.), HLCA, 10 June (VK); 13, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 10 June (VK). NBSO: Spfld (2), 8 & 16 June (DB).

Snowy Egret

Nesting: The only known 1996 nesting site was at Alorton (St. Clair Co) where an exact survey was not completed in order to avoid disturbance to this extremely fragile colony. MC: 70, Madison County, 31 July (KM); 30, St. Clair County, 28 May (KM), and (many), June/July (m.ob.). Others: LCal, 20 June (WM); Lawrenceville (1-6 ad.), June/July (TE, VK); HLCA (ad.), 10 June (VK).

Little Blue Heron

Nesting: The only known 1996 nesting site was at Alorton (St. Clair Co) where an exact survey was not completed in order to avoid disturbance to this extremely fragile colony, perhaps as many as 400-400 nests at this site. MC: 80, HLCA, 10 June (VK); 70, Madison County, 31 July (KM). Others: LCal (possible nesting?, ad. noted carrying a weed stalk into Night-Heron colony), 20 June and (2 ad.), 4 Aug. (WM); Lawrenceville (2—1 ad., 1 calico), 1 Aug. (VK). NBSO: Pratt-Wayne F.P.(Du Page Co) (1-2 ad.), 10-23 June (JP et al.); Bogota (Jasper Co) (ad.), 27 May & 11 June (SS).

Cattle Egret

Colonies: 4 known colony sites this year: Lawrenceville (100 nests), 24 June (TE) and 1 Aug. (yg. in nests about 2-3 grown) (VK); Wabash County (50 nests), June (TE); LRen (7 nests), June (DR); and Alorton (St. Clair Co), (an exact survey was not completed in order to avoid disturbance to this extremely fragile colony), May/June (VK). MC: 165, Sauget (St. Clair Co), 1 Aug. (KM); 40, HLCA, 10 June (VK); 38, n.w. Alexander County, 10 June (VK); 27, n.w. Union County, 10 June (VK); 25, Sand L (Mason Co), 19 June (KR); 8, e. Wayne County, 17 June (VK). Others: McLean County (6), early June (DBi fide MF); Paxton (Ford Co) (ad.), 22 June (RC); Buckhart (Sangamon Co), 24 June (DB).

Green Heron

Breeding: Ryder's Woods (McHenry Co) (on nest), 27 May and (1 ad., 1 imm.), 17 July (RBa); JP (2-3 prs, 4 yg.), June/July (PC); recent fledgling, LCal, 10 Aug. (WM); Lockport (family group of 4), 28 June (JM). MC: 7 & 5, Spfld, 20 July & 13 June, resp. (DB); 5, Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co), 12 July (KR).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Colonies: 7 colonies totalling more than 1200 nests this year. Black-Crown Marsh (McHenry Co) (19 nests), summer (BS); Baker's L (1 nest), 2 July (SBy); LCal (1050+ nests—two locations), 5 May (WM); LRen (113 nests), summer (DR); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (16 nests), 7 July (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) ("none"), 5 July (Rbj).; Alorton (St. Clair Co) (an exact survey was not completed in order to avoid disturbance to this extremely fragile colony), May/June (VK). Fledglings: LCal (first observed), 20 June (WM). Others: JP (116), 10 June (diminishing to @ 25), 20 June (KC fide PC); Evanston (42), 26 June (EW); Champaign (2 imm.), 23 July (EC, RC); Spfld (2 subad.), 16 July (DB); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (ad.), 10 June (VK); s.w. Jackson County (21+ incl. imm.), 28 June (BD); Mermet L C.A. (1 ad., 3 imm.), 13 July (CM, JMc).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Nests: North Chicago (Lake Co), July (nest empty, ad. nearby) (EW); Lockport Prairie, 8 May (CA) thru 15 June (JM). Others: JP (ad. & imm.), 17 June (KC fide PC); LCal (ad.), 20 June

Pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at nest, Will Co. 15 May 1996. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

(WM); SRSP (ad.), 5 July (CM, JMc); Spfld (Riverside Park) (1-2 ad.), 26 June-9 July (DB); HL, 15 June (KM); ESTL (2 ad.), 16 July (VK).

White-faced Ibis
NBSO: **Sauget** (St. Clair Co) (2), 23 May thru July (KM, m.ob.).

Mute Swan
Nests: Cook County: {Northbrook, Northfield, Baker's L, Crabtree N.C. and LCal}, 19 May (EW). Broods: McHenry Dam (3 yg.), 11 July (SD); Wauconda (3 yg.), late May (EW); LCal (1 yg.), 20 June (WM); Chi (Egger's Wood) (5 yg.), 16 & 30 June (WM); Orland Park (2), June (WS); SLCA (pr. w- 3 yg.), 24 May-31 July+ (KR); Spfld (pr. w- 3 yg.), 15 July (DB). Others: Crook L (Lake Co) (2 prs.), late May (EW); Lake Forest (Lake Co) (pr.), late May (EW).

SNOW GOOSE
NBSO: Sang.L (ad.), 17 June (DB).

Canada Goose
Nests: 10, Lockport, April/May (JM). Broods: many (78 ad. inc. non-breeders, w- 88 yg.), JP with 1st yg. on 29 Apr. & last hatching on 1 June (KC fide PC); 16 (2-9 yg.-brood), Spfld, 29 Apr.-13 July (DB). MC: 154 (63 ad., 91 yg.), Palatine, 8-15 June (CF); 96 & 80, Spfld, 17 June & 14 July, resp. (DB). Becoming a pest where fed.

Wood Duck
Broods: 29 (2-12 yg.-brood), Spfld, 4 June-26 July (DB); 8, Lockport, June/July (JM); 2 (5 & 10 yg.), s.w. Jackson County, 10 June (VK). MC: 200+ (8 imm.-ad), s.w. Jackson County, June (BD); 80, Spfld, 28 July (DB); 75 (ad. & yg.), Lockport, 17 July (JM); 50 (ad.), n.w. Union County, 10 June (VK); 39, Heyworth (McLean Co), June (MF). Others: JP (9 prs. but few yg.) (KC fide PC).

Green-winged Teal
NBSO: Deer Grove F.P., 15 June (2 males), 20 July (pr.) and 28 July (male) (CF, JoM); **Heyworth** (McLean Co), 14 July (MF).

American Black Duck
NBSO: Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (ad.), 12 July (KR); Buckhart (2 females), 24-27 June (DB); Spfld (female), 15 July (DB); Arcola, 2 Aug. (EC).

Mallard
Broods: Heyworth (McLean Co) (30 yg.), May/July (MF); 24 (2-10 yg.-brood), Spfld, 30 Apr.-31 July (DB). MC: 90 & 65, Spfld, 28 July & 12 June, resp. (DB). Others: JP (39 prs.) w- 1st yg. on 23 May (KC fide PC).

Northern Pintail
NBSO: Clin.L (male), 1 July (RC).

Blue-winged Teal
Broods: s.w. Jackson County (1 yg.), June (BD). Others: McHenry Dam (pr.), 11 July (SD); Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co) (pr.), June/July (SD); Deer Grove F.P. (pr.), 2 June (JoM); Lockport (male), 16 June (JM); Evergreen L (McLean Co) (3 males, 1 female), 10 June (MF); Carl.L (Sutton Pond) (2), 13 July (DI); n.w. Union County (pr. along edge of flooded wheatfield), 10 June (VK); Lawrenceville (male), 1 Aug. (VK).

Northern Shoveler
NBSO: Deer Grove F.P. (male), 15 June (CF); s.w. Jackson County (pr.), June (BD); s. Pope County (male), 13 June (VK).

American Wigeon
NBSO: **LRen** (pr.), 15 June (CA) - first known summer record since 1986.

CANVASBACK
NBSO: n.w. Union County (male), 10 June (VK) - first known summer record since 1985.

Redhead
NBSO: Baker's L (2), 6 June (RBa); Spfld (pr.), 9-11 June (DB).

Ring-necked Duck
NBSO: Baker's L (3), 6 June (RBa); Deer Grove F.P. (pr.), 22 May-26 July (CF).

Lesser Scaup
NBSO: Baker's L (4), 6 June (RBa); LCal (pr.), 20 June (WM); Arcola (Douglas Co) (male), 13 June (RC).

Hooded Merganser
Young: 21 (1-7 at five Sangamon County locations), 23 June-14 July (DB); 6 (fully-grown), Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co), 12 July (KR); 4 (fully-grown), Banner Marsh (Fulton Co), 7 June (KR); 3 (+ female), Cisco (Piatt Co), 1 July (RC). MC: 8, Spfld, 26 June (DB). Others: JP (2 ad. female), June/July (PC); LRSHNC (pr.), mid-June (WS); ESTL (female), 4 July (RC); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (female), 10 June (VK).

Common Merganser
NBSO: MS, 12 June (WS).

Red-breasted Merganser
NBSO: LCal (female), 20 June (WM).

Ruddy Duck
NBSO: Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 7 July (RBa); Baker's L (pr.), 6 June (RBa); near Palos (male), 1 July (WS); Riverdale (ad. male), 2 June (WM); Heyworth (McLean Co) (male), 10 June (MF); Arcola (Douglas Co) (female), 13 June (RC).

Turkey Vulture
MC: 55, Jersey County, 31 July (KM); 46, Serena (La Salle Co), 7 July (DS); 29, Spfld, 11 June (DB); 19, Channahon, 26 June (JM); 14, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 10 June (VK). Others: IBSP (2), 21 June (AS); Deer Grove F.P. (2), 15-22 June (CF).

OSPREY
potential nesting: A pair constructed a nest in mid-July at Burgmann Slough (sw Cook Co), however, eggs were not known to be laid (Jph, m.ob.) Others: Will County: Channahon, 25 July and Lockport, 27 July (JM); Dresden Nuclear Plant (Grundy Co), 29 July (CM, Jmc). Still waiting for successful nesting in Illinois since early 1950s.

Mississippi Kite
Grand Tower (Jackson Co) (6 ad.), 10 June (VK); s. Alexander County (4 ad.), 24 July (VK et al.).

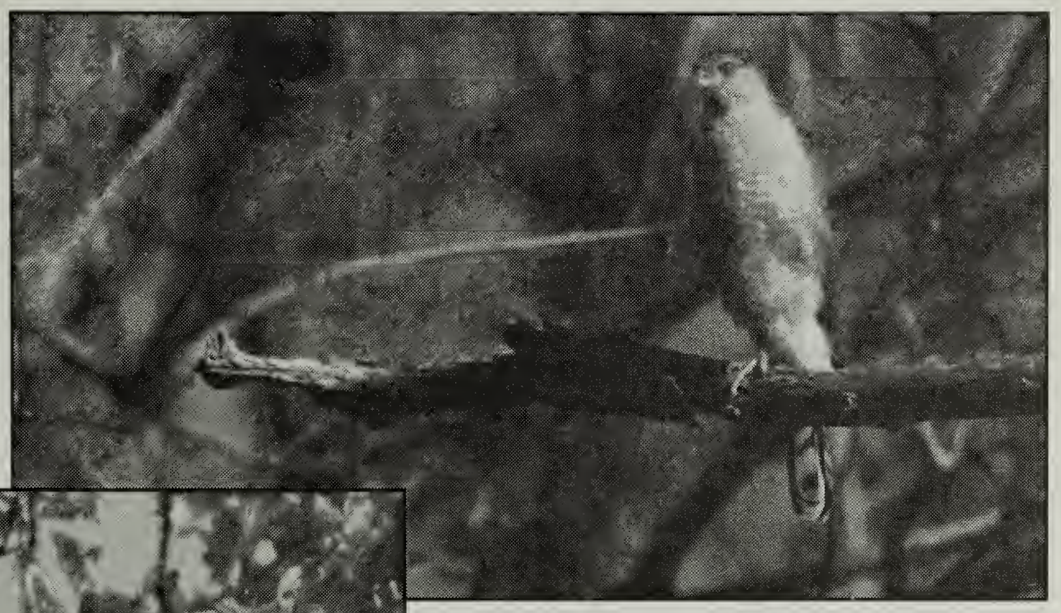
Bald Eagle
Nests: An internal IDNR summary report indicates that there were 20 occupied nests (from a total of 42 known sites) in 1996; ten of the occupied nests were first-time nestings. Of the 21 occupied nests, **13 were successful**—fledging 21 young. The first (known) **Ohio River nest** to be successful fledged 2 yg. this year (SL). Others: Warrenville (ad.), 16 July (DF); LChau (subad.), 26 May (KR); Sang.L (subad.), 4 June (DB); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (subad.), 10 June (VK); s. Alexander County (2 subad.), 10 June (VK).

Northern Harrier
Nesting: **Glacial Park** (McHenry Co) (5 eggs), April (DM); PCS (3 unsuccessful attempts), May/July (SS); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (4 eggs), 12 May and (4 fledged chicks), 5 July (SS). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (female), 5 June (AH), and (male),

nearby, June (fide AH); Iroquois County C.A., 6 June (EC); McLean County: {L Evergreen (imm.), 4 July; Colfax, 7 July; Gridley (female), 15 July; and Gillum (female), 29 July} (MF); Lake of the Woods Co Park (Champaign Co), 9 July (EC); s. Menard County (female), 24 June (VK); Sangamon County (female), 5 June (DB); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co) (3), 17 June (VK).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
Lockport imm., 16 June (JM).

Cooper's Hawk
Nests: Winnebago Co (**10**), Apr/May (DW); Ryder's Woods (McHenry Co), 23 Apr.-29 May (RBa); Volo Bog (1 yg.), 12 July (CF); Deer Grove F.P. (3 yg.), 9 July (CF); Palos (2 successful), 28 Mar.-1 June (WS, CT); Orland Park, Apr. (WS); Shorewood (Will Co) (3 yg.), 20 June (JM); Spfld (fledged yg.), 11 July (DB); s.e. Sangamon County (3 fledged yg.), 29 July (DB); Stephen A. Forbes S.P. (2, both w- fledglings), 15 June (TE). Breeding: Channahon (ad. carrying food), 27 June (JM); SRSP (ad., 2 imm.), 5 July (CM, JMc). Others: JP, late May/July (ad. & 1st yr.) (PC et al.); SLCA (ad.), 26 June (KR); SRSF (ad.), 26 June (KR); Mahomet (Champaign Co), 6 June (EC); 2 (ad.), separate Sangamon County locations, 3 & 18 July (DB); Flora (Clay Co) (ad.), 13 June (RC).



Above: Cooper's Hawk on territory, Washington Park, Sangamon Co. 30 April 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Left: Female Cooper's Hawk guarding three young in nest, Will Co. 20 June 1996. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Cooper's Hawk on nest, Washington Park, Sangamon Co. 6 May 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Red-shouldered Hawk
Nests: SRSP, 4 May (CM, JMc); Silver Spring S.P. (Kendall Co) (1 yg. in nest), 12 May (DS); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (2 yg.), 17 May (VK et al.); Stephen A. Forbes S.P. (fledged), 15 June (TE). Others: McClaughry Springs F.P. (pr.), 23 June (AS); Swallow Cliff F.P. (pr.), June/July (WS); Lockport (pr.), April/June (JM); Yale (Jasper Co), 29 June (RC); Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (3 ad.), 10 June (VK).

Broad-winged Hawk
Nests: 2, Rock Cut S.P., 10 June (DW). Others: Deer Grove F.P. (ad.), 31 May-29 June (CF); Zander Woods F.P. (ad.), 4 July (WM).

Swainson's Hawk
Kloempten's Marsh (s. McHenry Co) (pr.), 26 June (DF).

Red-tailed Hawk
Nests: LCal, 7 Apr. (WM); DPCA (w- yg.), 2 June (DS); Lockport (2), May (JM). Others: Sangamon County (several prs.) (DB).

American Kestrel
Nesting: Lockport (fledglings & ads.), 25 June (JM); Champaign (on nest), 8 June (EC) and (flying yg.), July (RC); ESTL (family of 6), 13 July (DI). MC: 7, Spfld, 13 & 15 July (DB).

Peregrine Falcon
Nesting: **McKinley Bridge** (Madison Co) (nest with 2 yg.), early May (fide GK).

Ring-necked Pheasant
MC: 55, Piatt-McLean Cos, 8 June (RC); 42, Bureau-Stark Cos, 20 June (VK); 26, s. Livingston County, 18 June (VK). Data from the IDNR early breeding season call counts indicates a 37% decrease in the pheasant population since 1995 and the population is at its lowest level since 1985 (LD).

Greater Prairie-Chicken
Broods: Jasper County (12: 1-10 yg. per brood), June/July (SS, EK). The Illinois population was enhanced again this year with 100 birds from Nebraska, approximately 25 males and 25 females were released at both the Jasper and Marion County sites (TE).

Wild Turkey
Breeding: LMSP (pr. + 7 yg.), 13 July (EW). MC: 13, Sang.L, 1 June (DB). Others: **Channahon** (first local record), 22 May (JM).

Northern Bobwhite
MC: 68, Clay County, 13 June (RC); 48, Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 46, Bureau-Stark Cos, 20 June (VK); 42, Richland-Wayne Cos., 17 June (VK); 34, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 32, Hancock County, 5 June (VK); 31, Spfld, 13 June (DB).

Black Rail
Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (ad.), 12, 19 & 26 June (seen in day & at night & with flashlight at night) (KR).

King Rail
Broods: PCS (6: 1-9 yg-brood), June/July (SS). Others: **Sun L** (Lake Co) (1-4), 5-20 June (SH); GLPSP (2 ad.), 14 July (AS); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (3), 19 June (KR); Niantic (Macon Co), 16 June (RC); Sang.L (ad.), 8 & 31 July (DB); Spfld (ad.), 17 July (DB); Sauget (St. Clair Co) (calling), 15 June (KM); ESTL (2), 4 July (RC); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (ad.), 5 July (SS); Lawrenceville (ad.), thru 24 June (TE).

Virginia Rail
Sun L (Lake Co) (1-4), 5-20 June (SH); Deer Grove F.P. (calling), 2 June (JoM) and (2 calling), 19 June (CF); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (nesting building), 23 May (RR, NB); Lockport (3-4 calling), 29 July (JM).

Sora
Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co) (calling), 5 & 19 June (SD); Sun L (Lake Co) (3-9), 5-20 June (SH); Deer Grove F.P. (calling), 2 June (JoM); Lockport (1-2 calling), 29 July (JM); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (calling), 26 June (KR).

Common Moorhen
Nests: Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (3), May/July (CP); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (2), May/July (CP); Cuba Marsh F.P. (Lake Co) (7), May/July (CP); Redwing Slough C.A. (Lake Co) (2), May/July (CP); Lawrenceville (ad. on nest), 24 June (TE); s.w. Jackson County (4—all failed because of flooding), June (BD). Broods: Wadsworth Wetlands (4 broods—7,6,5 & 1 yg.), 21-28 July (AS,SH) but (8 & 3 yg.) on 1 Sep. (EW); LCal (1—5 yg.), 4 Aug. (WM); Arcola (3—3, 4 & 5 yg., + additional ad. pr.), 3 Aug. (RC). Others: McHenry Dam, 11 July (SD); Lockport (2 ad.), 1 July (JM); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (3), 7 June (KR); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (1-2), 6-12 June (KR); Beardstown (4), 7 June (KR); Spfld (ad.), 4-10 June (DB); HL (Eagle Park), 15 June (KM); s.w. Jackson County (12 ad.), June (BD); n.w. Union County (2 ad.—along edge of flooded wheatfield), 10 June (VK).

American Coot
Nests: s.w. Jackson County (3—all failed because of flooding), June (BD). MC: 30+, Arcola (Douglas Co), 13 June (RC); 20 (ad.), n.w. Union County, 10 June (VK); 10 (ad.), s.w. Jackson County, 20 June (VK); 8, LCal, 20 June (WM); 7, HL (Eagle Park), 15 June (KM); 3, Sang.L, 8 & 27 June (DB). Others: Evanston, May-21 June (EW); Deer Grove F.P., 1 June (8 ad.)(CF); JP, June/July (PC); Palos, June/July (WS); Lockport (5 ad.—in 3 locations), 30 May-17 July (JM); Heyworth (McLean Co), 10 June (MF); Middle Fork F.P. (De Witt Co), June/July (EC); Salt Fork F.P. (Douglas Co), June/July (EC); Arcola (2), 20 July (EC); Nauvoo (Hancock Co) (ad.), 5 June (VK).

Sandhill Crane
Nests: Winnebago County {3—2 successful: **Rockton** (2 eggs), 4 May and (2 yg.), 10 Aug.; **Pecatonica** (2 yg.), 10 Aug.(DW,JD); **Moraine Hills S.P.** (McHenry Co), May/July (CP);16 June (DF); Denny Road Marsh (Kane Co) (ad. on nest), 18 Apr.-2 May (DS). Young: **IBSP** (ad. & small yg., 27 July - pr. present since 5 Apr.) (AS,EW); **near Volo Bog** (Lake Co) (2), 16 June (DF). Kloempken's Marsh (w. of Huntley), 23-27 July (DF); Moraine Hills S.P. (several pr.), June/July (DF); Sun L (Lake Co) (2), 2-20 June (SH); Deer Grove F.P. (ad.), 1 June (CF); Pratt-Wayne F.P.(Du Page Co) (2), 11-19 June (JP). NBSO: **KCP** (ad.), 3-9 June (DI);Wadsworth Savanna (pr), 6 & 25 June & 2 July (SD), possibly pair that bred at IBSP.

Killdeer
Nests: 5 Aug. (3 eggs—ad. brooding), but **6 Aug**. (2 yg. & 1 egg), JP—this is the latest egg date for Illinois, yg. were half-grown by 18 Aug. (PC) - see seasonal highlights. Young: Spfld, present by 15 May (DB); Chi (Montrose), 3 fledged on 15 May (EW). MC: 76 & 63, Spfld, 20 & 10 July, resp. (DB); 64, Heyworth (McLean Co), 7 July (MF); 39, Jasper County, 29 June (RC); 38 (incl. 15 yg.), Winnebago County, June/July (DW); 37, Madison County, 15 June (KM).

Black-necked Stilt
Young: 4, along levee s. of **Chain of Rocks Rd**. (Madison Co), 8 Aug. (*DB).

Spotted Sandpiper
Young: Spfld (2), 8 July (DB); Rochester (Sangamon Co) (3), 25 July (DB); Arcola (Douglas Co) (3 + ad.), 13 June (RC). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co) (2 ad.), 30 May-1 July (AH); Heyworth (McLean Co) (2-5), June/July (MF); HL, 15 June (KM).

Upland Sandpiper
Nests: Nachusa Grasslands (4 eggs), June (fide AH); Joliet Arsenal (2) May/June (BG). Others: IBSP, 18 May+ (EW); Fermi (pr.), 22 June (AS); Paxton (Ford Co) (pr.), 22 June and (2 males), 29 June (RC); n. Hancock County, 5 June (VK); PCS (7-8 prs.), May/June (SS, EK).

American Woodcock
Zander Woods F.P. (ad.), 2 & 22 June (WM); Powderhorn L F.P. (ad.), 16 & 30 June (WM); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (singles), 21 June & 1 July (KR); Urbana, 31 July (EC);MFWA (2 family groups), 9 June (DI).

Ring-billed Gull
Colonies: LCal ("thousands of nests"), May/June (WM). Local fledglings first detectged, 27 July WM); 3 July, JP (PC). NBSO MC: 928, JP, 2 June (PC); 44, Spfld, 27 June (DB); 25 (ad.), Ottawa (La Salle Co), 19 June (VK). Others: HL (3), 15 June (KM).

Herring Gull
Colonies: Baker's L (Lake Co) (2 nests, 1 w- 2 yg.), 6 June (RBa); LCal (presumably present), May/June (WM). Others: JP—juvenals first noted 9 July (PC). NBSO: 10, JP, 9 June (PC).

Caspian Tern
NBSO: Evanston, 14 June-1 July (EW); JP (1-2), June/July (PC); LCal, 20 June (WM); Palos, 2 July (WS); Lockport (2), 16 June & 1 July (JM).

Common Tern
Nests: IBSP (sw. border), nesting not initiated until about 21 July (due to high water conditions) with up to 30 adults present 27 July and 8-9 nests at height of egg-laying period; by 3 Aug. entire colony abandoned (AS).

Least Tern
Nesting: Gorham (s.w. Jackson Co) (26+ ads., 8 chicks, 1-4 fledglings—at this inland location prior to draining and planting to soybeans), June/July (BD); s. Alexander County (100 birds—60 ad., 40 imm.), 24 July (VK, BL et al.); s.e. Massac County (50 ad.), 11 June and (yg. present) mid July (BL).

Black Tern
Nests: Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (13), May/July (CP). Nesting: Wauconda (pr.), May & (carrying food), late July (EW); Deer Grove F.P. (ad. & imm.), 10-20 July (CF, JoM). NBSO: Lockport (ad.), 21 June (JM); s. Alexander County (ad.), 24 July (VK et al.).

Mourning Dove
MC: 145, Spfld, 28 July (DB); 100+, Lockport, 21 June (JM); 90, Richland-Wayne Cos, 17 June (VK);

Great Horned Owl, adult with young, Washington Park, Sangamon Co. 3 May 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Great Horned Owl, two young, Washington Park, Sangamon Co. 3 May 1996. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

69, Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 68, Jasper County, 29 June (RC); 67, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 55, Henderson County, 6 June (VK).

Black-billed Cuckoo
LMSP, 13 July (EW); Sun L (Lake Co), 5-20 June (SH); Zander Woods F.P., 2 June (WM); GLPSP, 14 July (EW); Middle Fork F.P. (Champaign Co), 15 July (EC); Sangamon County (singles at 5 locations), 2 June-15 July (DB).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
MC: 21, Pope County, 13 June (VK); 16, Madison County, 15 June (KM); 14, Johnson County, 14 June (VK); 13, Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 10 (males), Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co), June (KR); 8, Spfld, 21 June (DB); 3 (males), Deer Grove F.P., 14 June & 20 July (CF); 3, Zander Woods F.P., 2 June (WM); 3, Channahon, 9 July (JM); 3 (2 carrying food), Braidwood, 14 July (EW).

Barn Owl
Young: 2 (**fledged**), **n.w. Marion County**, 9 July (TE).

Eastern Screech-Owl
Sangamon County: "...getting more and more difficult to locate." (DB).

Great Horned Owl
Nests: Joliet, 24 Feb. (EW,JE). Others: Sangamon Co. (ad., 2 yg.) (DO).

Short-eared Owl
Reilly (n.w. Vermilion Co), 21 July (DI).

Common Nighthawk
SRSF (13 territories), 20-25 June (RBj). Drop in numbers?

Chuck-will's-widow
SRSF, 20-25 June (RBj).

Whip-poor-will
SRSR (134 territories), 20-25 June (RBj); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (20 males), 26 June (KR); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co) (4 males), 22 June (AH). Sangamon County: "Very few left in the county." (DB).

Chimney Swift
MC: 400, Spfld, 3 June (DB); 250, Palos, 7 June (WS); 54, Madison County, 15 June (KM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Nests: Palos (Columbia Woods), 8 July (WS); Palos (McClaughery Springs F.P.) 16 July (CT); Channahon, 19 June (JM). MC: up to 15 (at a feeder), Paris (Edgar Co), early July (DI); 10-14 (daily—at a feeder), C'dale, 15 July-9 Aug. (LW); 4, Spfld, 23 July (DB). Others: Deer Grove F.P. (male), 22 June (CF); Mahomet (female), 28 July—the only one seen in Champaign County all season (RC).

Belted Kingfisher
Young: Urbana (pr. w- fledgling female), 11 Aug. (RC). Others: Sangamon County: "Low numbers because of flooding in May." (DB).

Red-headed Woodpecker
MC: 13, Palos (four locations), 17 July (WS); 10, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 6, Monroe County, 16 June (KM). Sangamon County: no young seen by end of season (DB).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
MC: 28, White County, 14 June (VK); 18, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 16, Monroe County, 16 June (KM).

Hairy Woodpecker
Ottawa (La Salle Co) (ad. feeding recently fledged yg.), 6 July (CM, Jmc). MC: 7, Channahon, 14 June (JM).

Pileated Woodpecker
MC: 3, Spfld, 21 June (DB). Others: (between) Ryerson C.A. & Half Day F.P. (Lake Co), 24 May-15 June+ (VB et al.); Cisco (Piatt Co), 16 June (RC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee
Nests: Zander Woods F.P., 4 July (WM); Edgar County, 8 July (DI). MC: 25, Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co), June (KR); 22, Palos (2 locations), 8 June (WS); 16, Lockport, June/July (JM); 10, Pope County, 13 June (VK); 9, Spfld, 21 June & 9 July (DB).

Acadian Flycatcher
MC: 6 (males), SRSP, 5 July (CM, JMc); 5 (males), Silver Springs S.P. (Kendall Co), 23 June (DS); 4, Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co), June/July (KR). Others: COLSP (male), 13 July (AS); Deer Grove F.P. (3 males), 14 June (CF); Skokie Lagoons F.P., 22 June (EW); Joliet (Pilcher Park) (male), 30 June (AS); Mathiessen S.P. (La Salle Co) (3 males), 6 July); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (singles), 4 & 27 June (KR); Hopedale (2-3), 13 June-2 July (KR). Sangamon County: "Numbers decreasing rapidly in county." (DB).

Alder Flycatcher
NBSO: Rock Cut S.P., 10 June (DW); Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co), 25 June & 2 July (SD); Cherry Hill F.P. (2 males), 26 June (CT).

Willow Flycatcher
Nesting: JP (just fledged yg. w- ad.),18 Aug. (PC). MC: 13, Clin.L, 15 June (RC); 12 (11 males), LCal, 20 June (WM); 8 (males), Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co), 12 June (KR); 8 (territories), n.e. Edgar County 4 July (DI); 8 (6 males), Powderhorn L F.P., 16 June (WM); 4, Spfld, 10 June (DB); 4 (males), Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 30 May-24 July (AH).

Least Flycatcher
NBSO: Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co) (Male) 25 July (SD).

Eastern Phoebe
Nests: SRSP (ad. incubating), 5 July (CM, JMc).

Great Crested Flycatcher
MC: 9, Channahon, 14 June (JM); 7, e. Edgar County, 4 July (DI).

Western Kingbird
ESTL (4), 3-4 July (KM) and (1-3), late July (m.ob.)

Eastern Kingbird
Nests: 2, Lockport, 1 & 8 July (JM); Sang.L (3 eggs), 8 July (DB). MC: 20, Edgar County, 4 July (DI); 14, Spfld, 9 June & 30 July (DB); 12; 10, Clin.L, 15 June (RC).

Horned Lark
MC: 176, Champaign-Piatt Cos), 5 June (RC); 53, s. Livingston County, 18 June (VK); 41, Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 30 & 25, Spfld, 30 July & 13 June, resp. (DB).

Purple Martin
MC: 80, Calhoun County, 31 July (KM); 50, Elbridge (Edgar Co), 14 July (DI). Numbers down in the Palos-Orland Park area & in other Chi area sites (WS,EW).

Tree Swallow
Nesting: Sang.L (fledged), 8 July (DB); Spfld (pr.) (DB). Absent in Winnebago County this year (fide DW).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Nesting: Spfld (2-3 locations), June/July (DB); Wilmette, 20 June (EW). MC: 12, Spfld, 2 July (DB).

Bank Swallow
Nesting: Dallas City (Henderson Co) (320 burrows), 5 June (VK); Charleston (Coles Co) (300 burrows in rock quarry), 17 June (VK); Heyworth (McLean Co) (180 burrows), June (MF); c. La Salle County (100 burrows), 19 June (VK); Peoria (60 burrows), 14 June (KR); Devil's Island Chute (Alexander Co) (20 burrows), 23 July (VK, BL et al.); Petersburg (Menard Co) (20 burrows), 13 July (VK); JP (12 burrows), June (PC); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (2 small colonies in a gravel pit), 24 June (EC); HL (+), 15 June (KM); Spfld (attempted twice, but, bull-dozed out both times) (DB).

Cliff Swallow
Nesting: Winnebago County (50+ breeding prs.), June/July (DW); Dallas City (Henderson Co) (30 nests), 5 June (VK); L Evergreen (McLean Co) (12 nests), June (DBi fide MF); Clin.L (8 nests), 15 June (RC); JP (4 nests), June/July with only two yg. fledged (PC); L Bloomington (4 nests), June (DBi fide MF); Saganashkee Slough, 12 June (WS). Nesting: Spfld (fledged yg.), 3 July (DB). MC: 50, Spfld, 3 July (DB). Others: Evanston, 21 June (EW); LCal (O'Brien Lock & Dam), 20 June (WM); Clinton (De Witt Co) (2), 13 July (EC); Salt Fork F.P. (Douglas Co) (2 pr.), 2 June (EC).

Barn Swallow
MC: 76, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 50, Spfld, 10 July (DB); 42, Monroe County, 16 June (KM).

Blue Jay
MC: 22, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 21, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 16, Spfld, 17 & 22 July (DB); 13, Madison County, 15 June (KM).

American Crow
Young: Sang.L (fledged), 4 June (DB). MC: 51, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 42, Bureau-Stark Cos, 20 June (VK); 37, Adams County, 4 June (VK); 36, Pontiac, 21 June (VK); 32, Spfld, 20 July (DB).

Fish Crow
MC: 20, n.w. Union County, 10 June (VK). Others: Mascoutah (St. Clair Co) (2), 24 July (KM).

Black-capped Chickadee
Young: Spfld (fledged), 30 May (DB). Others: Skokie Lagoons F.P. (13 territories), 22 June (EW).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 40, s.e. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 18, Spfld, 30 July (DB); 31, Jasper County, 29 June (RC); 10 (9 singing), Zander Woods F.P., 2 & 15 June (WM).

White-breasted Nuthatch
Young: Spfld (fledged), 6 May (DB); Evanston (2 fledged), 23 May (EW). MC: 8, Spfld, 21 June (DB); 6, Zander Woods F.P., 2 & 15 June (WM). Red-breasted Nuthatch**Rockford** (pr.—perhaps nesting), 1 June (DW).

Carolina Wren
Nests: 5 eggs (in garage), Spfld, 13 Apr. (DB). Young: 2 (fledged), Spfld, 30 Apr. (DB); ad. feeding cowbird, Spfld, 25 July (DB). MC: 23, s.e. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 13, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 12, White County, 14 June (VK); 9, w. Will County, June/July (JM); 6, Spfld, 9 & 13 June (DB).

Bewick's Wren
NBSO: **Chatham** (Sangamon Co) (singing male), 19 July (DB).

House Wren
Young: Spfld (fledged), 17 July (DB). MC: **372 prs.**, Merwyn Preserve (McLean Co), June (fide MF); 20, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 15, Madison County, 15 June (KM). Others: Skokie Lagoons F.P. (10 territories), 22 June (EW).

Sedge Wren
MC: 16, Palos-Orland Park (3 locations), early June (WS); 12+ (males), Gridley (McLean Co), 9 June (MF, DBi); 12 (males), Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 8-24 July (AH); 10 (males), Busse Woods F.P., 15 July (CF); 9 (males), Bartel Grasslands, 23 June (AS). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (5), 29 July (DW); Sun L (Lake Co) (4 males), 5-20 June (SH); Wadsworth (Lake Co) (4 males), 21 July (AS); Powderhorn L F.P. (3 males), 29 June (WM); Quiver Creek (Mason Co) (male), 12 July (KR); Pleasant Plains (Sangamon Co) (2 males), 13 July (DB); Madison County, 31 July (KM).

Marsh Wren
Nests: Zander Woods F.P. (5 eggs), 15 June (WM). MC: 25 (males), LCal, 20 June (WM); 13 (males), Lockport, June/July (JM); 8 (males), Egger's Woods F.P., 16 June (WM); 5 (males), Powderhorn L F.P., 30 June (WM). Others: Rockford (3 prs.), 12 June (DW); Sun L (Lake Co) (7 males), 5-20 June (SH); Deer Grove F.P. (6 males), 2 June (JoM); Catlin Park Road (La Salle Co) (male), 16 June/July (CM, JMc); Arcola (male), 2 Aug. (EC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Nests: McHenry County (feeding yg.), **23 July** (RBa); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (building), 2 June (RR, NB); Spfld, 3 May (DB); MFWA (only 6' above ground—4 eggs, including a cowbird egg), 9 June (DI). MC: 16, sw. Cook Co, early June (WS); 10 (males), Channahon-Lockport, June/July (JM); 6 (3 prs.) & 4 (2 prs.), Deer Grove F.P., 14 & 19 June, resp. (CF); 3, Spfld, 21 June (DB). Sangamon County: "Numbers of this species dropping." (DB).

Eastern Bluebird
MC: 11, Spfld, 13 July (DB). Other: Watch for the detailed breeding season report of the Illinois Bluebird Project to be available this winter.

Veery
MC: 9, LMSP, 13 July (EW). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (2 males), 10 June (DW); Deer Grove F.P. (2 males), 14 June (CF); Swallow Cliff F.P. (3), 10 June (CT); Zander Woods F.P. (male), 22 June (WM); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (male), 14-20 June (KR).

Wood Thrush
MC: 14 (males), Channahon-Lockport, June/July (JM); 10, Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co), June (KR); 5 (4 males), Zander Woods F.P., June (WM); 4 (males), LChau, 20 July (KR); 3, Spfld, 26 July (DB). Sangamon County: "Still hanging on—but dropping in numbers." (DB).

American Robin
MC: 138, Piatt County, 8 June (RC); 85, Johnson County, 11 June (VK).

Gray Catbird
Nesting: McHenry Dam (ads. w- 2 fledglings), 11 July (SD); JP (15 territories), June/July (PC). MC: 7, Spfld, throughout June (DB); 7, Hancock County, 5 June (VK).

Northern Mockingbird
Young: Matthieson S.P. (La Salle Co) (1 ad., 1 recently fledged yg.), 26 June (CM, JMc); e. Sangamon County (4 yg.), 24 June (DB). MC: 24, Richland-Wayne Cos., 17 June (VK); 24, Clay County, 13 June (RC); 23, Madison County, 15 June (KM); 18, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 9, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 7, White County, 14 June (VK). Others: Braidwood (3 ads.), 14 July (EW).

Brown Thrasher
Young: fledged, Sangamon County, 16 July (DB). MC: 11, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 10, s. Livingston County, 18 June (VK); 9, Spfld, 10 June (DB); 9, Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 9, Adams County, 4 June (VK); 8, Henderson County, 6 June (VK).

Cedar Waxwing
Nesting: LCal (building), 20 June (WM); Utica (La Salle Co) (ads. carrying food for yg.), 5 July (CM, JMc); Champaign County (building), 18 June (EC).

Loggerhead Shrike
Shannon (Carroll Co), 16 July (DW); Kilbourne (Mason Co) (pr.), 12 June (KR); s.w. Sangamon County, 20 July (DB); w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM); Bogota (Jasper Co) (12 territories, 7 w- fledged yg.), May/July (SS, EK); Paris (Edgar Co), 3 July (DI).

White-eyed Vireo
MC: 7, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 4, Spfld, 13 & 26 July (DB). Others: LMSP, 13 July (EW); Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co) (male), 1 July (AH); Powderhorn L F.P. (male), 16 June (WM); Channahon, 26 June (JM); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (male), 3 July (KR).

Bell's Vireo
Nesting: Mahomet (Champaign Co) (2 fledglings being fed by ad.), 28 July (RC). MC: 4, Spfld, 10 July (DB); 4 (pr. + 2 males), Mahomet (Champaign Co), 7 July (RC); 2 prs., Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 30 May-24 June (AH); 3 (males), Clin.L, 15 June (RC); 3 (males), Kilbourne (Mason Co), 12 June (KR); 3, HL, 15 June (KM). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (male), 30 June-31 July+ (DW); Fermi (male), 22 June (AS); Braidwood (male), 29 June (AS); DPCA (2 males), 14 July (AS); GLPSP, 14 July (EW); Berwyn Prairie (McLean Co) (male), 2 June (MF); Cisco (Piatt Co), 16 June (RC); Urbana, 1 Aug. (EC); KCP (2 males), 9 June (DI); Douglas County (2), 25 July (EC); Hopedale (Tazewell Co) (male), 13 June-2 July (KR); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (1-3), 29 May-12 June (KR); RLCA (male), 21 May/July (KR); s. Hancock County (male), 5 June (VK); PCS (7 territories), 4 May-28 June (SS); ESTL (male), 13 July (DI).

Yellow-throated Vireo
MC: 8, s.w. Cook Co (4 locations), June (WS); 6 (males), Channahon, June/July (JM); 3, Spfld, 8 June (DB). Others: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co) (2 males), 5 June (AH).

Warbling Vireo
Nesting: JP (14 territories), June/July (PC). MC: 15, Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 13, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 12 (males), n.e. Edgar County, 4 July (DI); 11 (males), LCal, 20 June (WM); 10, Jasper County, 29 June (RC).

Red-eyed Vireo
MC: 18 (males), Zander Woods F.P., 2 June (WM); 17, Channahon, 25 July (JM); 6, Spfld, 2 July (DB).

Blue-winged Warbler
LMSF (male), 22 June (CM, JMc); Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co) (2 pr.), June/July (SD); Deer Grove F.P. (2 males), 16 June (CF); John J. Duffy F.P. (7 males), 4/22 June (CT); Zander Woods F.P. (2), 27 July (WM); Funk's Grove (McLean Co) (pr.), 3 June (MF); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (3 males), 14-23 June (KR); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (male), 21 May-12 June (KR); MFWA (6 males), 9 June (DI).

Northern Parula
Hopedale (Tazewell Co) (male & 2 fledglings), 28 June (KR). Sangamon County (single males at 3 locations), 21 June-23 July (DB); MFWA (2 males), June (DI).

Yellow Warbler
Young: Spfld (fledged), 5 July (DB); Vermilion County (2 family groups) and Edgar County (1 family group), June/July (DI). MC: 19 (males), LCal, 20 June (WM); 15, Quiver Creek (Mason Co), 19 June (KR); 10, Lockport, June/July (JM).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
Channahon (male), 14 June (JM); LMSF (3 males), 22 June (CM, Jmc) and (2 males), 4 July (AS).

Black-throated Green Warbler
LMSF (3 males), 23 June (DJ) and (2 males), 4 July (AS); Mattieson S.P. (La Salle Co) (male), 2 June (CM, JMc).

Yellow-throated Warbler
LMSF (5 & 4 males) 23 June & 4 July (DJ & AS, respectively); Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co) (2 males), June/July (DW); Kishwaukee F.P. (Winnebago Co) (male), June/July (DW); Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co) (4 males), May/July (KR); Spfld (2 males), 26 June (DB); Edgar County (5 males), July (DI).

Prairie Warbler
KCP (3 males), June (DI).

Cerulean Warbler
Nesting: Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co) (pr. w- fledgling), 17 June (VK). Others: Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co) (6), 15 June (CT); COLSP (male), 13 July (AS); Deer Grove F.P. (male), 31 May-16 June (CF); White Heath (Piatt Co) (male), 16 June (RC); Hopedale (Tazewell Co) (2), 13 June-2 July (KR); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (singles), 4-23 June & 14 June (KR); Spfld (male), 21 June (DB); FGP (male), June (DI).

Black-&-white Warbler
NBSO: Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co) (male), 19 June (KR); Urbana (male), 15-31 July+ (EC); Charleston (male), 24-25 July (BH); Fox Ridge S.P. (Coles Co) (male), 31 July (BH).

American Redstart
Nesting: McHenry Dam (male feeding fledgling), 11 July (SD); Champaign County (female w- 2-3 yg.), 4 Aug. (1st confirmed county breeding record since early this century—RC); Edgar County (pr. feeding yg.), 11 July (DI). MC: 10 (males), Quiver Creek (Mason Co), 19 June (KR); 5 (4 males, 1 female), Utica (La Salle Co), 5 July (CM, JMc). Others: SRSP (male), 5 July (CM, JMc); RLCA (3 males), 12 June (KR); Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co) (3 males), June/July (KR).

Prothonotary Warbler
Nesting: McHenry Dam (male feeding fledgling), 11 July (SD). Cache River Wetlands (Pulaski/Union Cos) (366 nesting attempts in 690 boxes available, May/July (JH). MC: 22+, Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co), June/July (KR); 4, Spfld, 11 June (DB). Others: Cuba Marsh (Lake Co) (male), 11 June (CF); Cisco (Piatt Co) (male), 1 July (RC); RLCA (3 males), 12 June (KR); Sangamon County (birds still present at 5 locations), June/July (DB); HL, 4 June (KM).

Worm-eating Warbler
Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (male), 4-10 June (KR); SRSF (male), 6 June (KR).

Ovenbird
MC: 11 (males), LMSF, 22 June (CM, JMc) - 10 still singing 13 July (EW); 10 (males), Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co), June (KR); 8 (males), Zander Woods F.P., 15 June (WM); 8 (males) and (5 males), Deer Grove F.P., 8 & 14 June, resp. (CF); 5 (4 males), Lockport, June/July (JM). Others: Skokie Lagoons F.P. (2), 23 June (EW); Silver Springs S.P. (male), 2 & 23 June (DS); SFST (male), June (KR); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (4 males), 26 June (KR); MFWA, 9 June (DI). NBSO: Douglas Hart N.C. (Coles Co), 8 July (ES fide BH).

Louisiana Waterthrush
McClaughry Springs F.P., 16 July (CT); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (3 males), 14-27 June (KR).

Kentucky Warbler
MC: 15, Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co), June/July (KR). Nesting: Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (ad. pr. w- 2 fledglings), 14 June & 10 July (KR). Others: Rock Cut S.P. (2), June 10-31 July+ (DW); Joliet (Pilcher Park) (male), 30 June (AS); Silver Springs S.P. (Kendall Co) (male), 2 June (DS); White Heath (Piatt Co) (male), 16 June (RC); SRSF (male), 26 June

(KR); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (male), 6-26 June (KR); Spfld (pr.), 21 June and (1), 23 July (DB); MFWA (5 males), 9 June (DI).

Mourning Warbler
NBSO: Zander Woods F.P. (Male) 15 June (WM); Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co) (male) 16 June (SD).

Common Yellowthroat
MC: 29, Jasper County, 29 June (RC); 22 (territories), Wadsworth Savanna (Lake Co), June/July (SD); 20 (territories), Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co), May/July (KR); 20, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 19 (17 males), Deer Grove F.P., 14 June (CF); 17 (15 males), Zander Woods F.P., June (WM); 17, Johnson County 11 June (VK).

Hooded Warbler
Rock Cut S.P. (5), June 16-31 July+ (DW); LMSF, 13 July (EW); Deer Grove F.P. (male), 14-19 June (JoM-CF); Palos (3), early June (WS); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (male), 31 May-23 June (KR); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (male), 6 June-12 July (KR, RS).

Yellow-breasted Chat
MC: 11, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 10, w. Pulaski County, 12 June (VK); 8, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 8 (males), Mahomet (Champaign Co), 7 July (RC); 6 (males), DPCA, 30 June (AS); 6, MFWA, 9 June (DI); 3, Spfld, 20 June (DB). Others: Rock Cut S.P., June 9 (DW); LMSF (2 males), 4 July (AS).

Summer Tanager
Swallow Cliff F.P. (male), 6 June-1 Aug. (CT); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (male), 14 June (KR); SRSF (male), 7 June (KR); Scrub Oak Prairie (Mason Co) (male), 17 July (KR); Spfld (male), 9 July and 23 July (DB); LShel (pr.), 1 Aug. (VK).

Scarlet Tanager
Nesting: Channahon (ad. feeding cowbird), 25 July (JM); Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co) (female on), 26 June (KR). MC: 9, Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co), June (KR); 9, Channahon-Lockport, June/July (JM); 7 (4 males), Zander Woods F.P., June (WM). Others: Spfld (2), 9 July (DB); n.w. Monroe County (3), 16 June (KM). Sangamon County: restricted now to just four locations (DB).

Northern Cardinal
MC: 52, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 47, Johnson County, 11 June (VK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Nests: **Eldon Hazlet S.P.** (Clinton Co) 13 July (DI, SB). Young: Ottawa (La Salle Co) (ad. feeding yg. at feeder), **4 June** (CM, JMc); McHenry Dam (recently fledged male), 11 July (SD); LMSP (2 grown yg.), 13 July (EW). MC: 10, Hancock County, 5 June (VK); 9 (males), Deer Grove F.P., 14 June (CF); 6, Spfld, 8 June (DB). Others: n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM).

Blue Grosbeak
MC: 10, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 9 (males), Clay County, 13 June (RC); 9, Johnson County, 11 June (VK). Others: SRSF (pr. + male), May/June (KR); Spfld (male), 26 June (DB); n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM); PCS (5 prs.), May/June (SS, EK).

Indigo Bunting
MC: 46, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 41, n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 40, Johnson County, 11 June (VK); 36, Clay County, 13 June (RC); 29 & 27, Spfld, 5 July & 16 June, resp. (DB).

Dickcissel
Nests: PCS (**129 nests**), May/July (SS, EK). MC: **350** (pr.), PCS, May/July (EK); 120+ (males), Cisco (Piatt Co), 16 June (RC); 111 (males), n.w. Jackson County, 15 June (BD); 100+ (males), Clin.L, 15 June (RC); 100+, Paxton (Ford Co), 22 June (RC); 76, n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 64, Clay County, 13 June (RC); 30, s. Livingston County, 18 June (VK); 30 (males), Fairmount (Vermilion Co), June/July (DI); 27, White County, 14 June (VK); 25 (males), GLPSP, 14 July (AS); 22 & 20, Spfld, 16 June & 5 July (DB); 20, Edgar County, July (DI); 15, Adams County, 4 June (VK); 14, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 11, Hancock County, 5 June (VK); 8, Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 13 July (EW). Also: "abundant in habitat" in Mason County (KR).

Eastern Towhee
Nests: MFWA (3), 9 June (DI). Young: Spfld (3), 23 July (DB). MC: 14 (males), Homer L (Champaign Co), 6 July (RC); 12, s. Pope County, 13 June (VK); 11 (5 males), Zander Woods F.P., June (WM); 7, Johnson County, 11 June (VK).

Chipping Sparrow
MC: 31, Piatt County, 8 June (RC); 19, Spfld, 9 June (DB); 14, s. Madison County, 15 June (KM).

Clay-colored Sparrow
Rockford (2 males calling from same spruce tree), June/July (DW); Rockton (Winnebago Co) (male), 30 June (DW).

Field Sparrow
Nests: Zander Woods F.P. (4 eggs), 4 Aug. (WM); Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (4 yg. incl. 1 cowbird yg.), 22 June (RC); PCS (28 nests), May/July (SS, EK). MC: **85** (pr.), PCS, May/July(EK); 16, n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 14, Spfld, 9 June & 23 July (DB).

Vesper Sparrow
MC: 37, Piatt County, 8 June (RC); 18, Pontiac, 21 June (VK); 15, w. Kankakee County, 19 June (VK); 5, Channahon-Lockport, June/July (JM); 5, Spfld, 8 June (DB).

Lark Sparrow
Breeding: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle/Lee Cos) (nest w- eggs, destroyed), 5-25 June (fide AH); Braidwood (pr. + 2 yg.), 14 July (EW). MC: 8, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 6, s. Bureau County, 20 June (VK). Others: n.w. Winnebago County (2), 2 June (DW); Iroquois County C.A. (4), 7 July (AS); n.w. Sangamon County (male), 16 June (DB); n.w Monroe County, 16 June (KM); Jasper County, 29 June (RC); Richland County, 17 June (VK).

Savannah Sparrow
MC: 26, Bartel Grasslands, mid June (MH); 15 (males), Reilly (Vermilion Co), 21 July (DI); 10 (males), Cisco (Piatt Co), 16 June (RC); 4, Iroquois County C.A., 6 June (EC). Others: Deer Grove F.P. (ad. feeding fledgling), 13 July (CF); Lockport (2 pr.), June/July (JM); PCS (6 territories), May/July (SS).

Grasshopper Sparrow
Nests: PCS (**9**), May/July (EK). Young: Spfld (fledged), 4 Aug. (DB). MC: **90** (pr.), PCS, May/July (EK); 29 (males), n.w. Jackson County, 15 June (BD); 22 (males), Matthieson S.P. (La Salle Co), 2 June (CM, JMc); 21 (males), Clay County, 13 June (RC); 21 (males), Cisco (Piatt Co), 16 June (RC); 20 (males), Reilly (Vermilion Co), 21 July (DI); 15 (males), 30 May-24 June

(AH); 12, Fairmount (Vermilion Co), June/July (Dl); 4, Bartel Grasslands, mid-June (MH); 4 (males), Channahon-Lockport, June/July (JM); 4, Spfld, 30 June (DB); 4, n.w Monroe County, 16 June (KM). Also: "abundant in habitat" in Mason County (KR).

Henslow's Sparrow
Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (6+ males), 10 June (RBa); sw. Du Page County (male), 30 June (AS); GLPSP (20 males), 9 June (CT) & (5 males), 29 June and (4), 28 July (CT & AS); DPCA (5), 30 June (AS); **Matthieson S.P.** (La Salle Co) (4 males, 1 female), 1-26 June (CM, JMc) and (2 males), 6 July (AS); **L Bloomington** (12 males), June (JEz fide MF); Iroquois County C.A. (4), 6 June (EC); Bartel Grasslands (2), mid June (MH); Paxton (Ford Co) (2 males), 22 June (RC); **Jubilee College S.P.** (Peoria Co) (7 males) and (2-3 fully-grown juvenals), 28 June-15 July and 1-15 July, resp. (KR); Banner Marsh (Fulton Co) (male), 12 June (KR); PCS (**41 pr.**), May/July (EK).

Song Sparrow
MC: 57, Clay County, 13 June (RC); 57, Jasper County, 29 June (RC); 43, White County, 14 June (VK); 31, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 30, n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM).

Swamp Sparrow
Young: Powderhorn L F.P. (2 fledglings), 30 June (WM). MC: 8 (males), Powderhorn L F.P., 16 June (WM); 7 (males), Deer Grove F.P., 22 June (CF); 4 (males), Zander Woods F.P., 15 June (WM); 4 (males), Lockport, June/July (JM). Others: GLPSP, 14 July (EW); Iroquois County C.A. (2), 6 June (EC); Matanzas Prairie (Mason Co) (male), 19 June (KR).

Bobolink
MC: **149** (140 male, 9 female), Bartel Grassland, mid June (MH); 12, Iroquois County C.A., 6 June (EC); 6, Lockport, 27 July (JM); 6 (5 males), Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 1 July (AH). Others: Sun L (Lake Co) (3 males), 5-20 June (SH); Deer Grove F.P. (male feeding 3 fledglings), 13 July (CF); Pine Road (De Kalb Co) (+), 12 May-15 July (DS); Gridley (McLean Co) (5+), June/July (MF); s. Livingston County (7), 18 June (VK); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (2 prs.), 28 June-15 July (KR); Peoria (4), 22 July (KR); w. Sangamon County (3 males), 9 June and (1 male) 25 June (DB); Sang.L (2 females), 8 July (DB); Clay County, 13 June (RC).

Red-winged Blackbird
MC: 100, Spfld, 9 & 16 June (DB).

Eastern Meadowlark
Nests: PCS (25 nests), May/July (SS, EK). MC: 175 (pr.), PCS, May/July (EK); 85, Clay County, 13 June (RC); 45, Hancock County, 5 June (VK); 44, n.w. Monroe County, 16 June (KM); 40+, Clin.L, 15 June (RC); 23, Spfld, 9 June (DB).

Western Meadowlark
MC: 17, s. Bureau County, 20 June (VK); 8+, Gridley (McLean Co), June (MF). Others: IBSP (male), 17 May-late June (EW); Du Page Co Airport (male), 14 June (JP); Bellflower (McLean Co) (4), 8 June (RC); Reilly (Vermilion Co) (3 males), June (DI); Momemce (Kankakee Co) (7 males), 20 July (DI).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
Nests: Moraine Hills S.P. (McHnery Co) (**18**), May/July (CP); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (**20**), May/July (CP). Nesting: McHenry Dam (4 males feeding calling yg.), 11 July (SD). MC: 15, Deer Grove F.P., 2 June (JoM); 5 (ad. males), LCal, 20 June (WM); 3 (ad. males), Egger's Woods, 16 June (WM) - but 8 males there on 19 May (EW). Others: Oakhurst Marsh (Du Page Co) (2), 22 June (JP). Not at MM this year (JP). NBSO: Colfax (McLean Co) (female), 30 July (MF, MR).

Brewer's Blackbird
IBSP (pr.), 17 May-late June (EW, AS).

Common Grackle
MC: 160, Douglas County, 5 June (RC); 100, Spfld, 30 June (DB).

Brown-headed Cowbird
MC: 2000+, Champaign, 28 July (RC); 50, Spfld, 30 July (DB).

Orchard Oriole
Nests: Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 2 prs., 30 May-24 July (feeding yg. on 8 July) (AH); Cherry Hill F.P., 4-7 July (CT). MC: 11, Palos (5 areas), early June (WS); 11 (pr. + 9 males), Clin.L, 15 June (RC); 10, Jasper County, 29 June (RC); 6 (males), n.e. Edgar County, July (DI). Others: MM (2), 2 June (JP); 3 (males), Lockport, June/July (JM); Pratt-Wayne F.P.(Du Page Co) (subad. male), 13 June (JP); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (female feeding cowbird), 28 July (RC); Jubilee College S.P. (Peoria Co) (male), 1 July (KR); Sanganois C.A. (Mason Co) (3 males), 17 July (KR); Barkhausen C.A. (Mason Co) (3 males), 12 July (KR); Spfld (male singing), as late as 29 July (DB).

Baltimore Oriole
Nesting: JP (12 territories), June/July (PC). MC: 17 (14 males), Zander Woods F.P., June (WM); 17, Henderson County, 6 June (VK); 15 (males), Clin.L, 15 June (RC).

House Finch
Evanston (24 territories), 21 June (EW). MC: 20, O'Fallon, 22 July (KM); 11, Spfld, 5 July (DB).

American Goldfinch
Nests: Spfld (high in sycamore tree w- female incubating), 23 July (DB). MC: 18, Spfld, 24 June & 30 July (DB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 4, Spfld, 2 & 17 July (DB). Others: Champaign, 20 July (RC).

EXOTICS

Monk Parakeet
Nests: Calumet Park, 16 May (EW); Chi (Rainbow Beach), 16 May (EW); Zion (2), 5 Apr.-May (EW); Berwyn (2), May (fide EW). Others: JP—"As of 1 Aug., no evidence of fledging...." (PC), but, "...young were first noted 11 Aug.—about a month later than in the previous two summers." (PC).

Eurasian Collared Dove
Clin.L, 15 June (*RC).

— Vernon M. Kleen,
Natural Heritage Division
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
524 S. 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1787

Send seasonal reports to:

Fall Migration - Due 7 December
(1 August - 30 November)
• Robert Chapel
306 1/2 West California
Urbana, IL 61801

Winter Season - Due 7 March
(1 December - 28 February)
• Robert Danley
2201 Clay Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Spring Migration - Due 7 June
(1 March - 31 May)
• Paul R. Clyne
5538 S. Blackstone Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Breeding Season - Due 7 August
(1 June - 31 July)
• Vernon Kleen
Illinois Department of Conservation
Natural Heritage Division
524 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701

The Illinois Ornithological Society gratefully acknowledges the following members for their generous donations and support.

Supporters ($100 - $500)

Mrs. Clayton H. Banzhaf • Denis M. Bohm
Dinay Dyer & Herb Wisch • Parker Hall
David B. Johnson • R. David Johnson
Steven Mlodinow • Wilbur & Baiba Rosenkranz
Paul F. Sullivan & Marsha Dittmer
Lynne N. Tamura • David Willard • Anonymous

Contributors ($50 - $99)

Mr. & Mrs. Rex J. Bates • David Brenner • Florence Burek
Sheila Connolly • Evanston North Shore Bird Club
Mrs. Erica Friederici • J.Patrick Graham • Philip Haebler/The Upstart Crow
Mary Ann Harrison • Craig Jobson • R. Laegeler • Martha Marks
Alex and Marilyn Meloy • Kristin & Roger Miller • P. Clifford Miller
North Central Illinois Ornithological Society • Karen Rodemaker • Harriet W. Rylaarsdam
Roger and Dana Rzepka • Mark Seiffert • Joe Suchecki
John & Caryl Sweeney • Jack & Betty Wier
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation • The World Cafe/Vernon and Linda LaVia

Southern Illinois Birds

An Annotated List and Site Guide

W. Douglas Robinson

cloth, ISBN 0-8093-2032-0

$39.95* illustrated, 480 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 inches

This illustrated volume documents current knowledge of the avifauna in the southern Illinois area by surveying the published literature as well as the unpublished field notes of active observers.

Available at local bookstores or from

Southern Illinois University Press

Box 3697 • Carbondale, Illinois 62902-3697
Phone 800-346-2680 • Fax 800-346-2681

*Add $3.50 for shipping and handling and 75 cents for each additional book.

Photograph by Todd Fink

ABOUT OUR ADS AND AD RATES

The Illinois Ornithological Society accepts pertinent ads for publishing in *Meadowlark*. The rates and rules are as follows. We reserve the right to accept or deny any ad, and to limit the space set aside for ads, which will be placed at the back of the journal. **Rates PER ISSUE:** $15 one-eighth page or equivalent of one business size card; $30 one quarter page or equivalent of two business size cards; $60 half page. **Required materials:** Camera-ready copy and check payable to IOS should be sent to: Sheryl De Vore, 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060. **Due dates:** No. 1 - Summer: February 1; No. 2 - Fall: May 1; No, 3 - Winter: August 1; No. 4 - Spring: November 1

Springhouse begins where the travel brochures leave off.
Read about the real Southern Illinois:
History, folklore, humor, recipes, and letters-always plenty of letters.
One-year subscription (6 issues) $15.00

Springhouse
P.O. Box 61 • Herod, IL 62947
Tel. No. (618) 252-3341

BINOCULARS REPAIRED
CUSTOM SALES

The *right* binocular at the right *price*

Herb Koehler - Owner
Binocular Technician 44 years

Estimates: No Cost or Obligation

TELE-OPTICS
5514 Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630
(312) 283-7757

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- We welcome manuscripts, photographs, and illustrations for possible publication in *Meadowlark*.
- Article topics include unusual bird sightings and nesting accounts, technical papers on bird research, and other articles such as bird finding guides and field identification tips. Joy of birding articles will be considered.
- Manuscripts should be typewritten or computer-generated, double spaced and on only one side of numbered pages. Please send two copies of your manuscript and make sure you keep another for yourself.
- If you are able, submit a computer disc in ascii file or for Word Perfect 5.1.
- Include name, address, and day and night time phone numbers. Other pertinent information about your qualifications and background is also helpful.
- We prefer clear black and white or color print photographs. Color slides may also be acceptable.
- We reserve the right to review and edit articles according to style, grammar, accuracy, and read ability.

Send articles, photographs, and inquiries to:

Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor
967 Braeburn, Mundelein, IL 60060.

Pen and ink drawings are also accepted. Contact:

Denis Kania, 1536 Preston Road
Naperville, IL 60563.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Members of the Illinois Ornithological Society receive *Meadowlark*, the quarterly journal, plus *Wings Over The Prairie*, the IOS newsletter. Members are also invited to special field trips, the annual meeting, and other IOS functions.

To join or send a gift subscription, send your name or that of the gift recipient, address, and telephone number along with fee to:

IOS
P.O. Box 1971
Evanston, IL 60204-1971.

Back issues of Volume 2, 3, 4, and 5 are still available for $5 each. Some back issues of Volume 1 are also available at $6 each.

Fees: Individual $20; Family $30;
Full-time student $10; Contributor $50 - $99;
Supporter $100 - $499; Sponsor $500.

NATURE'S CORNER • 847-369-3636

WILD BIRD PRODUCTS

Almost 100 kinds of BIRD FEEDERS • More than 40 kinds of WILDLIFE FOOD

Birdbaths, heaters, poles, houses, books, fieldguides, binos, scopes, packs and more

NATURE'S GIFTS

Art and limited edition prints, porcelains, musicals, mugs, tee and sweat shirts, stone critters, gardening and nature books, toys, puppets, puzzles, minerals, wind chimes, jewelry, cards, calendars, audio and video tapes.

WATER GARDENING SUPPLIES

Pond kits, liners, pumps, filters, fountains, water test kits and pond care products.

10-8 WEEKDAYS, 10-6 SAT., 1-5 SUN. • 566 S. RT. 59 NAPERVILLE, IL
ACROSS FROM THE FOX VALLEY MALL NEAR VENTURE

Meadowlark
AM. MUS. NAT. HIST. LIBRARY
Received on: 05-20-97

AMNH LIBRARY
100232916

Black-crowned Night-Heron, Alton, IL. 17 Aug. 1996.
Photo by Dennis Oehmke.